

Rabin: Israel's 'defence' is reduced

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's "defence" has been reduced because of a lack of funding, Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Israel Radio Sunday. "We have been forced to reduce our order of battle in the air, on the ground and at sea," said Mr. Rabin. Mr. Rabin recently said Israel had budgeted \$2.6 billion for defence in 1987, down from \$3.2 billion in 1986, \$4.0 billion in 1985, \$4.3 billion in 1984 and \$4.6 billion in 1983. Israel has requested a \$1.5 billion military grant from the United States for 1988, the same as it received in 1987. Mr. Rabin said Israeli-built Kfir fighters purchased by the air force have not entered into service, but are being kept in storage because there is no money for maintenance or to train pilots to fly the planes. He said some 12,000 defence-related employees were made redundant in 1986 and projected another 2,000 to 4,000 would be laid-off in 1987. Mr. Rabin did not say by how many officers and men from the armed forces had been released from military service, but he has said that annual military service by the reserves has been cut. The authoritative Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies reported that Israel had some 550,000 men, including reserves under arms in 1985.



UAE rules out urgent OPEC talks

DOHA (R) — A leading OPEC oil minister indicated Sunday he thought that the 13-nation group's two-month-old accord to push up oil prices would be successful. United Arab Emirates (UAE) Oil Minister Mansour bin Juma Al Otaibi told reporters after a meeting between Saudi Arabia and the Gulf Arab states he did not think an emergency OPEC meeting was necessary. The meeting was the second this month of oil ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), grouping Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE — responsible for nearly 40 per cent of total OPEC production — with non-OPEC Bahrain and Oman. It was held against a backdrop of weakening free market oil prices after an initial rise following OPEC's decision in December to reduce total group output by 7.25 per cent to 15.8 million barrels per day (bpd) and return to fixed prices of around \$18 a barrel. Asked if he still believed an emergency OPEC meeting was necessary, Mr. Otaibi, who heads OPEC's market monitoring committee, said: "No I don't think so."

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Sheikh Saad to have medical check-up

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah, left Sunday for Britain on a private visit for a medical check-up, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said. It said the visit would last two weeks but gave no other details. Sheikh Saad will miss National Day celebrations next Wednesday marking Kuwait's independence from Britain 26 years ago. He also missed the silver jubilee celebrations at the same time last year because of a three-month convalescence abroad following an emergency gall bladder operation in London.

Renton begins Mideast visit

LONDON (R) — British Foreign Office Minister Timothy Renton left Sunday on a nine-day tour of North Yemen, Saudi Arabia and Oman where he will discuss bilateral and regional issues with senior government officials. British officials said this was the first time Mr. Renton had visited the three countries since he took up his present Foreign Office post in September 1985. Mr. Renton will visit North Yemen from Feb. 22 to 24, Saudi Arabia from Feb. 24 to 26 and Oman from Feb. 26 to March 2.

Artist Andy Warhol dies

NEW YORK (R) — Pop artist Andy Warhol died in his sleep on Sunday of a heart attack, one of his employees said. John Mada, who identified himself as the security supervisor at Andy Warhol studios, said he had been told by a spokeswoman for New York Hospital where Warhol, 60, died. The hospital refused to confirm the report immediately and said a statement would be issued later.

Blast cuts Pakistan gas line

PESHAWAR (R) — An explosion severed a pipeline bringing natural gas to Peshawar on Sunday, cutting the supply to the city of about 800,000 people, witnesses said. There was no immediate official word about what caused the blast five kilometres east of Peshawar, capital of the North West Frontier Province bordering Afghanistan, but local residents said they feared it was sabotage. It happened three days after a lorry bomb outside an Afghan guerrilla office near Peshawar killed at least 12 people and injured more than 60, sparking off violent protests and gun battles between Afghan refugees and local residents.

Rain and storms lash UAE

ABU DHABI (R) — Thunderstorms lashed the United Arab Emirates on Saturday and Sunday, bursting a dam in the northern Emirate of Ras Al Khaimah and pounding a mountainous region near Al Ain with hailstones. The meteorological office in Abu Dhabi said an unstable air mass over the Gulf northwest of the city moved inland and swept through the northern emirates on Saturday, leaving heavy rains in its wake. A separate storm developed over mountains near the oasis city of Al Ain, in eastern Abu Dhabi emirate, where temperatures dropped suddenly and hailstones fell.

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Syrian soldiers deploy in Beirut; fighting dies down

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian troops and armour fanned across west Beirut on Sunday, snuffing out savage factional fighting that police said killed 300 people and wounded 1,300 in one week.

A senior Syrian official warned that the incoming troops would "have no mercy" in crushing any defiance from warring militiamen.

But police said the Syrian deployment was not challenged. "All gunmen have withdrawn from the streets and all their offices and military centres throughout the city will be closed tomorrow (Monday)," police said.

It was at 5:15 p.m. when the first Syrian contingent crossed Beirut's municipal boundaries. The battalion consisted of truckloads of commando paratroopers backed by Soviet-made BMP armoured personnel carriers, according to police.

That unit rolling in from the city's international airport quickly dug in at buffer zones, separating rival militiamen in the Cola and Tarik Jideh districts that have seen most of the savage fighting in the past seven days, police said.

Later, another armoured Syrian force moved into the city's seaside districts of Ramlet Al

Baida and Raoucheh as well as the commercial thoroughfare of Hamra and the devastated Comodore hotel.

They took up positions around the central bank, the prime minister's office and the state-run radio station.

Witnesses quoted by Reuters said at least 60 Soviet-made amphibious tanks, 10 armoured troop carriers and 70 trucks drove in a swirl of diesel fumes from Khaldeh junction, 10 kilometres south of Beirut.

Tanks plastered with posters of Syrian President Hafez Al Assad ground on to Beirut international airport, idle for the past three weeks, as units of the 4,000-plus Syrian force fanned out in the battle-scarred streets.

"With our souls and blood, we serve you, Lebanon," chanted about 600 soldiers in 30 trucks as they roared along the seafont Corniche boulevard.

Fighting between Shi'ite Muslim and leftist militias had subsided as two Syrian armoured columns snaked through mountains from Syrian-controlled east

Lebanon towards the Lebanese capital.

Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan, warned militiamen to get off the streets and told them to release all prisoners by 1530 GMT.

"All gunmen are asked to withdraw immediately from the streets of Beirut because regular forces are on the door of the city on their way to deploy in all districts," he said in a radio broadcast.

Soon after his broadcast, mili-

Israelis see no threat

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli leaders, who discussed Syria's re-entry into Beirut at a cabinet meeting Sunday, said the move was not considered an immediate threat or one that was likely to lead to an Israeli-Syrian clash.

Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, who briefed the 25-member cabinet on the Lebanon situation, said it was "preferable" that Syria stay out of Beirut.

Asked by reporters if the move posed a threat to Israel, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Saturday night, "I don't think the threat for the time being is terribly high, and I wouldn't attribute much of a meaning to it."

Soviets poised to conduct nuclear test

MOSCOW (R) — American scientists monitoring nuclear testing in the Soviet Union said Sunday they had been told to switch off seismic equipment and believed Moscow was about to end its 18-month-old unilateral test freeze.

They said Soviet scientists at three joint monitoring stations around the main nuclear testing grounds near Semipalatinsk in the Central Asian Republic of Kazakhstan told them the request was normal procedure before nuclear tests.

There was no official confirmation in Moscow that the Soviet Union was about to end its ban following the first U.S. nuclear test this year, which took place on Feb. 3.

Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev said during a Baltic tour on Friday that the Soviet Union

had not resumed testing yet and its next explosion would be announced in advance.

"We were told to put down our equipment for a minimum of three days, perhaps longer. Our Soviet colleagues said this was routine for seismic equipment when a test is about to be made," seismologist Holly Eissler told Reuters.

"We inferred from this that a new Soviet test is imminent," said Mr. Eissler, one of six American scientists monitoring test blasts under an agreement between the Soviet Academy of Sciences and the private Natural Resources Defence Council.

Speaking by telephone from the village of Karkaralinsk, near Semipalatinsk, Mr. Eissler said equipment was switched off Saturday morning and it was not clear when it could be turned on again.

Moscow has said it would be forced to continue nuclear testing by the U.S. blast in Nevada on Feb. 3 but has not set a date for the resumption of tests.

Soviet officials portray a halt to testing as the first step towards disarmament and say continued testing will push the arms race into space.

Moscow has repeatedly appealed to Washington to join the moratorium but the White House has contended that testing is needed to modernise and maintain the U.S. deterrent and will be needed as long as there are nuclear weapons.

The Reagan administration says testing is necessary to develop its "star wars" plans for a space-based missile defence shield.

Soviets move ahead on Enormis-les, page 8

Labour demands Thatcher statement on Libya

LONDON (R) — Members of Britain's opposition Labour Party called on Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Sunday to make a statement on claims that the object of U.S. air raids on Tripoli last April was to kill Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi.

In an article in Sunday's New York Times magazine, reporter Seymour Hersh said the United States set out deliberately to kill Col. Qadhafi in the bombing raids, not to strike at "terrorist" and military facilities as stated by Washington (See page 2).

The Labour politicians said that if the article were true, Mrs. Thatcher must have been aware that Col. Qadhafi was a target for assassination.

Hersh said his sources told him that nine U.S. F-111 bombers based in Suffolk, eastern England, joined the main U.S. strike force with specific orders to bomb only Col. Qadhafi and his family.

Labour member of parliament Martin Flannery said that if this were true it was not unreasonable to assume the British government was aware there was a grave danger of the Qadhafi family being killed.

More than 2 million face starvation in Somalia

GALGADUD, Somalia (R) — More than two million people, mostly nomads, are threatened by drought and famine in Somalia's central region of Hirran, regional government officials in Galgaduud said Sunday.

Thousands had already moved to crowded refugee centres in search of relief food.

But the acting permanent secretary in the Interior Ministry, Addi Aden, said the Somali government was not considering an international appeal for famine relief at present.

Aid organisations such as the United Nations Children's Fund and the London-based Oxfam are working in the area and the government is supplying maize, sor-

ghum and rice from its emergency stocks, he said.

Officials said no famine deaths had been reported so far but food and water had to be transported under difficult conditions from as far as the capital, Mogadishu, 600 kilometres south of this settlement near the border with Ethiopia.

The 12-hour road journey from Mogadishu crosses some of Africa's most barren country. Crops have withered and cattle, goats and camels have died.

Complicating the drought is the unstable security situation along the frontier with Ethiopia, where the biggest border clash for many months took place near Galgaduud earlier this month.

Israel wants U.S. not to take any Soviet Jews

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel urged the United States on Sunday to deny free entry to Jews who leave the Soviet Union on visas to Israel.

"From the day the state of Israel was established and its gates open to all Jews, there is no longer any substance to the term 'Jewish refugees,' the cabinet said in a statement after its weekly meeting.

Echoing an appeal in Washington last week by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, the statement urged the United States to stop granting refugee status to Soviet Jewish emigrants.

About 80 per cent of Soviet Jews allowed to emigrate travel to the United States although their emigrants' visas list their destination as Israel.

Israeli officials say they hope that an end to U.S. refugee status will turn around the so-called drop-out rate of Soviet Jews who decide not to settle in the Jewish state.

Last year, only 202 Jews came to Israel out of the 914 Jews reported by the U.S.-based National Conference on Soviet Jewry to have left the Soviet Union.

But opposition legislator Yossi Sarid, of the left-wing Citizens' Rights Movement, said the government was wrong to insist that Soviet Jews come to Israel.

"Israel must not force Jews to come here against their will," he said. "Israel must be a country of choice and not a country of exile."

Iraqis raid Iranian facility

LONDON (Agencies) — Iran said Iraqi warplanes bombed a communications station near the town of Karaj to the northwest of Tehran Sunday afternoon.

It was the first Iranian report of an Iraqi air raid since last Thursday when Baghdad said it was suspending attacks on towns and cities for two weeks.

The national Iranian news agency (IRNA), received in London, said the attack caused some damage to the station. The brief report made no mention of the unofficial trace.

Iran had responded to the unilateral Iraqi announcement by saying it would refrain from retaliatory attacks on Iraqi cities.

Iran and Iraq had both launched air, artillery and missile attacks on each other's cities this year, killing thousands of civilians.

Baghdad said its bombing halt, intended to give the Iranian leadership a chance to consider peace calls by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, would not apply to military targets or targets connected with Tehran's war effort.

IRNA reported earlier that Iranian Revolutionary Guards had seized a strategic lake north of marshes near Iraq's southern city of Basra.

Baghdad denied this. A military spokesman quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said no battle had been fought in the area during the period specified.

A Tehran newspaper reported Sunday authorities in Iran arrested four anti-government guerrillas who were caught transmitting radio signals to Iraq's air force.

The newspaper Kayhan said the four were members of the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq underground resistance movement.

It said they were found with several radio transmitters and bombing devices used to direct warplanes in air raids on targets.

IRNA quoted the newspaper as saying the guerrillas were arrested in the western city of Bakharan.

The Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, which IRNA in a play on words called the "munafiqeen" or "hypocrites," is the largest anti-government group operating in Iran and has offices in Baghdad.

Grenade attack wounds 17, including 12 Israeli policemen

Combined agency dispatches

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM — Seventeen people, including 12 Israeli policemen, were wounded on Sunday in a hand-grenade attack on an Israeli police patrol near the Damascus Gate of Jerusalem.

Reports said at least 70 Palestinians were arrested after the attack, responsibility for which was claimed by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in a statement issued in Tunis.

The grenade was hurled into the street or nearby bush during the change between two patrol of Israeli policemen, reports said.

The PLO's claim of responsibility said the attack was carried out by the "Ali Abu Taouk" unit. Israeli police speculated that the attack was carried out by the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) since it came on the 18th anniversary of the founding of the group.

The attack sent hundreds of shoppers, including foreign tourists, running for cover along the stone-paved streets near the Damascus Gate, one of the seven entrances to the Holy City.

Police said two of the injured were in serious condition and at least five suffered moderate

wounds. The identities of the five passers-by who were injured were not disclosed by the Israeli authorities.

Police said the attack occurred just after the shift changed on an Israeli police patrol at 2.15 p.m.

All nearby stores pulled their shutters down, roads were blocked and Israeli policemen began a massive search of the area, scouring the shrubbery for additional bombs and detaining Palestinians in the street and nearby stores. Police said later they had defused another grenade.

Later reports, which were confirmed by Israeli police, said 70 Arabs were arrested.

The blast occurred in a roadway, 50 metres from the Damascus Gate, which is used by foreign tourists on a daily basis to reach holy sites such as the Via Dolorosa, where tradition says Jesus carried the cross en route to his crucifixion, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, where he was entombed.

An AP reporter said he saw 28 Palestinians were detained by half a dozen Israeli policemen. Some held their hands clasped behind their heads. Many others were lined up along the wall and searched.

One detainee was kicked in the shins by a policeman, the AP

reporter said. A second was forced to empty out a plastic bag of personal belongings, including a jacket onto the sidewalk, he said.

Israeli spokesmen said the blast could be linked to either of two Palestinian 18th anniversaries — the founding of the DFLP or the attempted arson at the Al Aqsa Mosque. The attempted arson caused three days of violent Palestinian protests in East Jerusalem in 1969.

Later on Sunday another Palestinian faction claimed responsibility for the grenade attack.

Fateh Uprising said its guerrillas operating in the occupied homeland planted a time-bomb at "a military bus station" near the Damascus Gate.

The occupied territories have been rocked by violent Palestinian protests for the past two weeks and Israeli forces have been using violent means to disperse demonstrators.

Last October, an Israeli was killed and 69 wounded near the western wall of the Old City in a hand-grenade attack at an army swearing-in ceremony for new recruits. An Israeli court sentenced three Palestinians for the attack.

Israelis detain 131 Arab students

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli authorities closed 20 Palestinian universities in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip on Sunday after anti-Israel protests in which Palestinians said seven students were injured and 131 arrested.

The army denied there were any detentions or injuries. It said it closed the Gaza University for 10 days, following demonstrations on Saturday at the campus where 4,500 Palestinians attend classes.

An eyewitness from a nearby United Nations headquarters told Reuters the protests began after Israeli troops arrested a number of students and forced them to line up with their hands on their heads.

Other students set tyres ablaze and shouted anti-Israel slogans. Israeli troops hosed demonstra-

tors with water cannon, forcing them to disperse after the university administration refused to send all students home for the day.

Palestinian sources quoted by Reuters said seven students were injured and 126 arrested in the clashes with Israeli troops. Another five were arrested Sunday, they said.

The army closed the Islamic University in Hebron until March 15 in a move against demonstrations there last week.

Two other West Bank institutions — Birzeit University near Ramallah and Bethlehem University — reopened after being closed by the authorities for four days. Al Najah University near Nablus, ordered to be closed for a month, remained shut.

Palestinian protests have intensified in recent weeks against

increased Israeli harassment and anger over the fate of their brethren in Lebanon, facing starvation in refugee camps due to a four-month siege by militiamen.

Israeli and Palestinian sources reported protests in Askar and Jalazoun refugee camps in the West Bank where Israeli troops used tear gas to disperse Palestinian demonstrators.

Stone-throwing protests were also reported by Palestinians from the Gaza Strip.

A U.N. official said an unspecified number of students at a United Nations vocational school in the strip were seized by Israeli troops from a bus taking them to their studies.

The United Nations closed the school for the day to prevent protests against the arrests.

'Israel suggested attack on Pakistani reactor to India'

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel went to India three times to propose a joint attack on Pakistan's nuclear weapons reactor but was turned down each time, according to a front-page report in the Jerusalem Post.

The report by the newspaper's London correspondent David Horowitz quoted unidentified "top level political analysts" in the British capital. The report said the proposals were made in recent years, but did not elaborate.

India's air force is incapable of bombing the reactor at Kahuta outside Islamabad with sufficient accuracy to ensure its destruction, but Israel's air force could do the job, the analysts were quoted as saying.

The report said Israel was provided with detailed satellite photographs and other top-secret U.S. intelligence concerning the plant by Jonathan Jay Pollard, the U.S. civilian naval intelligence analyst convicted of spying for Israel.

The Jerusalem Post reported in an exclusive story last week that Pollard provided Israel with more than 1,000 secret U.S. documents of major importance.

These included photos of the Pakistani reactor, information about Soviet naval movements in the Mediterranean, arms shipments to the Arab countries and satellite photos and maps of Iraqi and Syrian weapons and "chemical warfare facilities," according to the report.

Israel's interest in destroying the Pakistani reactor stems from its opposition to any Muslim country having access to nuclear arms and the fear that Pakistan might be taken over by Islamic fundamentalists, the report said.

It would be impossible for the Israeli air force to act against the Pakistani reactor without refuelling facilities in western India because of the distance from Israel. Israeli bombers destroyed Iraq's Osirak nuclear reactor in June 1981 reportedly after being provided with U.S. satellite photos by Pollard.

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Mahdi: Sudan wants peace in Chad

CAIRO (AP) — Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi reaffirmed on Sunday that his country would not help any of the warring parties in Chad but said Sudan's efforts to mediate for its western neighbour would continue.

Mr. Mahdi spoke at a news conference at the end of an official five-day visit to Cairo. A highlight was his signing with his Egyptian counterpart, Ataf Sedki, a cooperation agreement that replaces and dilutes a 1982 charter that could have led to a merger of Egypt and Sudan.

Mr. Mahdi insisted that Sudan would provide neither facilities nor passage rights to either side in the Chad conflict. Government forces in N'djamena, helped by France and the United States, are facing Libyan-backed rebels in the north of the country.

"We will continue not to provide any facilities (to the different parties), ..." Mr. Mahdi said, "and we will continue our direct contacts to try and stop the fighting."

A senior Sudanese delegation already has travelled to Libya and Chad to mediate.

Zia terms visit to India as success for peace

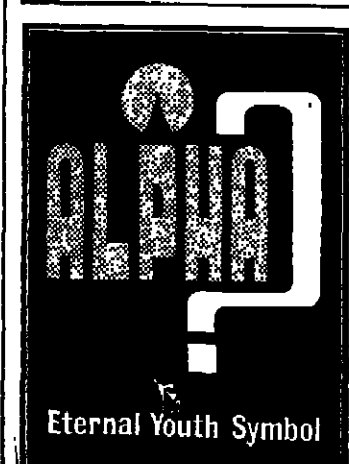
JAIPUR, India (Agencies) — Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq on Sunday pronounced his "peace through cricket" trip to India a success and said his talks with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi had reduced border tensions.

General Zia, who arrived in this western city Sunday morning to watch India and Pakistan compete in a test match (See page 6), told reporters at the stadium cricket was peace and peace was winning.

The Pakistani leader flew to New Delhi Saturday night and held informal talks with Mr. Gandhi following the most dangerous military build-up along the Indo-Pakistan border since the two fought their last war in 1971.

Asked on Sunday about the prolonged border tension, he said: "The main thing is that we have been able to solve it and it should not happen again."

He did not elaborate but an Indian official said the two leaders discussed further troop withdrawals from forward frontier positions.



North's secretary confirms shredding Iran documents

WASHINGTON (R) — The personal secretary of Lieutenant-Colonel Oliver North has been granted immunity from prosecution in the Iran arms investigation and has told investigators she helped Col. North shred White House documents in November, the Washington Post reported Sunday.

The Post said the secretary, Fawn Hall, had told independent Iran investigation counsel Lawrence Walsh she helped Col. North destroy key memos and computer messages in his office on Nov. 21.

On Nov. 25, U.S. Attorney-General Edwin Meese revealed that some money from the Iran arms sales had been diverted to anti-government rebels in Nicaragua.

At the same time Mr. Meese announced that Col. North had been fired from his position at the National Security Council (NSC) and that Col. North's NSC boss, Admiral John Poindexter, had resigned.

The Post said Ms. Hall had helped investigators reconstruct the destroyed messages by calling them up from the White House's electronic archives.

It quoted one government source as saying the retrieval of these messages had established what it called "a clear case of obstruction of justice."

Col. North, who was working for the NSC on a number of top-secret international projects, destroyed a mammoth stack of documents from his safe and drawers, the Post said, quoting unnamed government sources.

When the Los Angeles Times reported in late November that NSC documents had been shredded, White House officials said this would not obstruct an investigation because copies of all documents were kept in a central file.

Apart from the Walsh investigation which is expected to make its findings known in several months, another investigative commission headed by former Senator John Tower is expected to release a highly critical report next Thursday.

In another story the Post said White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan, who has been fighting to keep his job in the face of the mounting Iran arms controversy, now appears to have lost his battle.

The Post quoted an administration source as saying Mr. Regan was "almost out the door."

It quoted another official as saying Mr. Regan may have already told President Reagan he wanted to quit but did not want to announce his resignation while under public fire.

Reagan aides accused of deceit

Amid fresh disclosures in the Iran arms scandal, a top opposition Democrat has accused President Reagan's aides of deceit and said allies and adversaries recognised the disarray in the White House.

The accusation came as the commission appointed by Mr. Reagan to probe the scandal concluded that a top aide ordered a

misleading chronology of the affair be compiled to permit the president to deny his involvement, according to a televised report.

Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd said Saturday he was worried that Mr. Reagan's ability to govern had been harmed and he accused top White House aides, whom he did not name, of lying to cover up the president's role.

"I think there's been a great deal of lying and cover-up — not by the president himself, I'm not saying that — but it's obvious that those around him have engaged in a great deal of cover-up and deceit in an effort to protect the presidency," Sen. Byrd, of West Virginia, told the Los Angeles Times in an interview published Saturday.

Later, in a televised interview with Cable News Network he was asked if he was worried about Mr. Reagan's ability to govern, Sen. Byrd replied, "Yes, I do."

"The credibility of the United States has been severely impaired, our foreign policy is in shambles, our friends, our adversaries see the disarray in the White House," he said.

The remarks were some of the harshest criticism heard yet from Democrats in the unfolding scandal over secret White House arms sales to Iran and the diversion of profits to U.S.-backed rebels fighting to overthrow Nicaragua's leftist government.

Sen. Byrd said he thought the scandal had given a propaganda edge to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev who was able to "take advantage of this sad and sorry set of circumstances."

He continued to urge Mr. Reagan to admit the Iran arms sales were a mistake.

Sen. Byrd's charges of lying concerned published reports that, on the advice of aides, Mr. Reagan gave conflicting statements to the Tower panel about when he approved arms sales to Iran.

Former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane, a key player in the affair, has said Mr. Reagan gave his approval before the first arms shipments, which were made through Israel. White House Chief of Staff Donald Regan has said the president's approval came after the fact.

The report quotes one U.S. Air Force intelligence officer as saying: "There is no question they were looking for Qadhafi. It was briefed that way. The were going to kill him."

Hersh, who exposed the U.S. massacre of Vietnamese civilians at My Lai in 1968, said only five of the nine aircraft sent to bomb Col. Qadhafi's headquarters managed to deliver their bombs. Israeli intelligence pinpointed Col. Qadhafi's whereabouts during the night of the raid.

Some bombs did hit Col. Qadhafi's quarters inside a military barracks in Tripoli. The Libyans said their leader's adopted 15-month-old daughter was killed. Col. Qadhafi himself was unhurt although scores of people were reported killed in the raids on the Libyan capital and on Benghazi.

Administration officials, including Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger both denied at the time that Col. Qadhafi was a target.

Hersh said the plan was coordinated by the National Security Council (NSC), the same body which was involved in covert arms sales to Iran, and that Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North, who was fired from the NSC shortly after the Iran scandal broke last November, was a moving force behind the planned attack on Col. Qadhafi.

Hersh also reported that NSC members, including Col. North, set up a "back channel" to limit information about the Libya raid, as well as the arms sales to IRA, "a few inside the government."

No written records were kept of the operation, Hersh quoted one unnamed source as saying: "There was no executive order to kill and no administrative directive to go after Qadhafi. They covered their tracks beautifully."

The interviews, Hersh wrote, also revealed that much of the secret planning for the Iran and Libyan operations took place simultaneously and involved the same people: North and former NSC chief John Poindexter, who resigned last year.

William Casey, then director of the Central Intelligence Agency, personally served as the intelligence officer for a secret task force on Libya set up in 1981 and provided intelligence that could not be confirmed by his subordinates, Hersh said.

U.S. raids aimed to kill Qadhafi

NEW YORK (R) — The United States set out to deliberately kill Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi in air raids on Tripoli last April, according to an investigative report published Sunday by the New York Times.

Reporter Seymour Hersh, who said he interviewed more than 70 U.S. officials and servicemen, concluded that the real aim of the raid was not to strike at guerrilla and military facilities as the Reagan administration said, but to kill Col. Qadhafi.

The report quotes one U.S. Air Force intelligence officer as saying: "There is no question they were looking for Qadhafi. It was briefed that way. The were going to kill him."

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Battles in west Beirut highlight resentment at growing Amal power

BEIRUT (R) — The battle for west Beirut has split Syria's allies in Lebanon and shaken delicate regional alignments.

The conflict, in which at least 150 people have been killed, pits the unwieldy Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia against a leftist alliance of Druze, Sunni Muslims and Communists trying to loosen Amal's grip on the Lebanese capital's Muslim sector.

The street fighting which flared on Monday appears to have been prompted by Amal's relentless drive to subdue Palestinian commandos in refugee camps. It has also released pent-up frustration with Amal's three-year domination of west Beirut.

The gun law and anarchy has drawn revulsion from many inhabitants caught in the tank, mortar and artillery battles. "God rid of them (gunmen) all, we can't take any more," spat an angry housewife.

Syria has strongly backed Amal against what it calls a plot by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat to make a military comeback in Lebanon.

Amal's siege of the Palestinian camps, where people were reported to be starving, disturbed not only the leftists but also radical Middle Eastern states usually aligned with Syria.

Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi praised the Communists for joining the defence of the camps and Iranian mediators have actively sought to end the camps war.

Junblatt denounces camps war

Amal leader Nabih Berri has said his militia is battling agents of Israel trying to overturn the results of a 1984 militia uprising when Amal and its current foes together ousted Falangist-led Lebanese army troops from west Beirut.

Syria sent about 400 commandos to west Beirut as part of a security drive last July and has hinted that it may send more troops to quell the battles among its allies.

Political sources in Damascus said Syria disliked any threat to its influence in Lebanon and might intervene as a last resort despite its shaky economy and diplomatic isolation.

The Soviet Union, Syria's main

military supplier, might well caution against a Syrian attempt to settle matters by force.

Moscow maintains direct links with Mr. Arafat and Mr. Junblatt's Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) as well as with Lebanon's pro-Soviet Communists and may see the PLO as its own best route into any Middle East peace negotiations.

Another deterrent for Damascus might be uncertainty over the attitude of Israel, which forced thousands of Syrian troops and PLO commandos to evacuate west Beirut in 1982.

Israel has shown its concern at Arafat's resurgent strength in Lebanon's refugee camps with repeated air raids on Palestinian commando positions near the southern city of Sidon.

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), Amal's main rival in the Shi'ite community, clashed last week with Syrian troops in Beirut, but has stayed neutral in the west Beirut battles.

Ideologically at odds with the Communists, it also opposes Amal's drive to restrict commando attacks on Israel.

Mr. Junblatt has repeatedly hinted in public at a revival of the secular National Movement he inherited from his father Kamal, murdered in 1977.

Amal, championing the rights of the politically underprivileged Shi'ites, never joined that alliance.

The National Movement, including the PSP, the Communists, the Sunni Marabutton and the Syrian Nationalist Social Party, fought the 1975-76 civil war alongside the PLO. But the movement failed to find unity and Mr. Junblatt dissolved it during Israel's 1982 invasion.

"It is our right ... to defend ourselves in Beirut," Mr. Junblatt said on Sunday just before the latest battles began.

Syrian intervention

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Syrian soldiers deploy in Beirut; fighting dies down

(Continued from page 1)

intervention was a "horrible scheme aimed at dividing Lebanon, establishing sectarian states and sending half a million Palestinians outside Lebanon."

A PLO source in the Iraqi capital told Reuters: "Syrian troops entering Beirut is a basic party to the blockade of Palestinian refugee camps and the annihilation and starvation of our people there."

Brig. Kanaan would not say if Syrian troops would move into Beirut's mainly Shi'ite southern suburbs, a stronghold for militants believed to hold foreign hostages.

"God willing, we will remove everyone's ordeal. We are here to remove the people's ordeal," he said, voicing optimism for 26 foreigners missing in Lebanon, nine of them seized this year.

"From now on we will have no mercy on gunmen in the street," Brig. Kanaan said in his radio broadcast.

A political source said the Sy-

rians would try to protect west Beirut colleges, foreign embassies and public institutions.

Mr. Gemayel called Mr. Karami's request unconstitutional and the Christian "Lebanese Forces" militia leader said the intervention would lead to more violence.

The Lebanese Front, an alliance of right-wing Christians, said the Syrian military intervention was a "violation of the United Nations charter."

In Washington on Sunday, a State Department official said that if history was any indication, the Syrian troops sent to restore order in west Beirut would not be able to impose a lasting peace.

"Lebanon's friends should support the institutions of central government, which are the pillars on which unity and reform will be constructed," said Department spokesman Sandra McCarty.

The past 12 years in Lebanon provide ample proof that no external force can impose political or security arrangements in Lebanon.

"The United States continues

to support Lebanon's unity, sovereignty and independence, and the withdrawal of all foreign forces. We believe the Lebanese people deserve leadership dedicated not to strengthening militias but to dissolving them —

leadership inspired not by factional ambition but by determination to give constitutional form to the aspirations of all the Lebanese people for a tolerant, prosperous, stable, national state."

Mehdi: Hostages safe

AMMAN (AP) — Foreign hostages held by extremists in Lebanon are apparently safe despite the recent rage of battles between militias in west Beirut, an American Muslim envoy who returned from Beirut said Sunday.

Mohammad Mehdi, secretary-general of the New York-based National Council on Islamic Affairs, spoke by telephone from his hotel during a stopover in Amman on his way to New York.

He said a reliable source contacted by phone in Beirut "assured us that to the best of his knowledge, they (the hostages) are in good health and that the war had not hurt any one of the hostages. They've been properly

protected."

Mr. Mehdi and his assistant, Dale Shaheen, arrived in the western sector of Beirut eight days ago to launch a new bid to free 26 hostages, eight of them Americans.

The two hurriedly evacuated the city on Thursday after they were robbed at gunpoint of \$1,400. The Commodore Hotel where they were staying was engulfed in battles and looting.

Mr. Mehdi, 58, said he left Beirut without establishing contact with the kidnappers because he was trapped in the hotel as fighting raged outside between rival militias. By Lebanese police estimates, 200 people were killed and 400 injured in the battles.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION
Tel: 73111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:00 Koran
15:30 Programme Review
15:55 Cartoons
16:10 Toms Sawyer
16:35 Scientific Programme (Arabic)
17:00 Different Strokes
17:30 Time to Time
18:00 Arabic Series
18:30 Local Panel
19:20 Local Programme
19:50 Programme Review and Varieties
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Message from Oman
20:40 Arabic Series
21:40 Local Comedy
22:00 Tomorrow's Programmes
22:05 Arabic Series
23:00 News Summary in Arabic
23:10 Arabic Varieties
23:30 Close down

PROGRAMME TWO
18:00 L'ube de bonhomme
19:00 News in French
19:15 Sport magazine (French)
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Magazine Zero One
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Executive Stress
21:10 Rage of Angles (mini series)
21:40 News in English
22:20 Frisco (mini series)

RADIO JORDAN
855 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM
& partly on 950 KHz. SW
Tel: 73111-19

07:00 Light Music
07:30 Newsdesk
08:00 Morning Show
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Just a Minute
09:30 Follow the Wing
10:00 News Summary
10:30 Pop Session Cont.
10:40 News Bulletin
11:00 Comedy
11:30 Concert Hour
11:50 News Summary
12:00 Instrumentals
12:30 Old Favorites
13:00 My World
13:30 Pop Session
14:00 News Summary
14:30 Sports Roundup
14:50 Music
15:30 News Desk

19:30 Date with a Star
20:00 Evening Show
21:00 News Summary
21:30 Evening Show Continued
22:00 Different Strokes
22:30 Evening Show Continued
23:00 Close Down

BBC WORLD SERVICE
630, 720, 1323 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 The Wind in the Willows 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Waveguide 07:00 World News 07:09 24 Hours: News Summary 07:30 Nature Notebook 07:45 Recording of the Week 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Not So Long Ago 09:00 World News 09:09 24 Hours: News Summary 09:30 Play: Jude the Obscure 10:00 World News 10:09 Reflections 10:15 The Wind in the Willows 10:30 Anything Goes 11:00 World News 11:09 British Press Review 11:15 Good Books 11:30 Financial News 11:45 Peeble's Choice 12:00 News Summary: Not So Long Ago 12:30 The Alternative 12:30 24 Hours: News Summary 12:39 News About Britain 13:15 Zoom! - Berlin 13:30 Album Time 14:00 Radio Newswelt 14:15 Quote, Unquote 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:09 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Just a Little Of Time 16:00 News Summary: Outlook 16:45 Hotel du Lac 17:00 Radio Newswelt 17:15 Not So Long Ago 17:00 Kings of Swing 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 19:15 My Word 19:30 New Ideas 19:40 Book Choice 19:50 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsdesk

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1260 & SW 720, 955, 1170, 11925 and 15210 Hz

05:00 News 05:10 Newsline 05:30 VOA Morning 06:00 News 06:10 Newsline 06:30 VOA Morning 07:00 News 07:10 Newsline 07:30 VOA Morning 08:00 News 08:10 Newsline 08:30 VOA Morning 09:00 News 09:10 Newsline 09:30 VOA Morning 10:00 News 10:10 Newsline 10:30 VOA Morning 11:00 News 11:10 Newsline 11:30 VOA Morning 12:00 News 12:10 Newsline 12:30 VOA Morning 13:00 News 13:10 Newsline 13:30 VOA Morning 14:00 News 14:10 Newsline 14:30 VOA Morning 15:00 News 15:10 Newsline 15:30 VOA Morning 16:00 News 16:10 Newsline 16:30 VOA Morning 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 VOA Morning 18:00 News 18:10 Newsline 18:30 VOA Morning 19:00 News 19:10 Newsline 19:30 VOA Morning 20:00 News 20:10 Newsline 20:30 VOA Morning 21:00 News 21:10 Newsline 21:30 VOA Morning 22:00 News 22:10 Newsline 22:30 VOA Morning 23:00 News 23:10 Newsline 23:30 VOA Morning 24:00 News 24:10 Newsline

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* An exhibition entitled "Bezidian" at the French Cultural Centre (until Feb. 28).

* An exhibition of sports photographs by Soviet photographer Igor Otkin from TASS news agency at Yarmouk University in Irbid (until Feb. 26).

* Fine arts exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Feb. 23).

* An art exhibition by Mohammad Polio and Munira Al Tunisi at the Housing Bank Centre Gallery.

FILMS

* A feature film entitled "Barbarosa" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

* A Japanese film entitled "Galaxy 999" (Animated cartoon with Arabic subtitle) at 5:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre.

VIDEO

"Michel Tournier" at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre - Tel. 6610267
American Centre - Tel. 644371
American Centre Library - Tel. 641520
British Council - Tel. 6361718
French Cultural Centre - Tel. 637009
Goethe Institute - Tel. 641993
Soviet Cultural Centre - Tel. 644203
Spanish Cultural Centre - Tel. 624049
Turkish Cultural Centre - Tel. 639777
Hays Arts Centre - Tel. 645105
Hussein Youth City - Tel. 667816
Y.W.C.A. - Tel. 646251
Amman Municipal Library - Tel. 637111
Univ. of Jordan Library - Tel. 843555

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

09:00 Agaba (RU)
09:20 Cairo (RU)
09:25 Jeddah (RU)
09:30 Muscat, Dubai (RU)
09:30 Damascus (RU)
10:05 Abu Dhabi, Kuwait (RU)
17:00 Laraca (RU)
17:20 Cairo (RU)
18:45 Casablanca, Tunis (RU)
01:00 Baghdad (RU)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

02:00 London, Baghdad (BA)
07:35 Cairo (MS)
09:20 Sana'a (LH)
12:50 Bahrain (GF)
13:45 Kuwait (KU)
20:30 Baghdad (IA)

DEPARTURES
ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

06:45 Agaba (RU)
11:30 Paris (RU)
11:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RU)
12:15 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RU)
13:00 Laraca (RU)
13:30 Cairo (RU)
19:30 Kuwait, Doha (RU)
20:30 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RU)
21:00 Baghdad (RU)
21:00 Jeddah (RU)
21:15 Cairo (RU)

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

02:00 London, Baghdad (BA)
07:35 Cairo (MS)
09:20 Sana'a (LH)
12:50 Bahrain (GF)
13:45 Kuwait (KU)
20:30 Baghdad (IA)

WEATHER

Temperature will be above normal, with northwesterly moderate to fresh winds, and will be dusty at times in the southern and eastern parts. In Agaba, it will be hazy, with medium and high clouds. Winds will be southerly fresh and rough seas.

Min./max. temp.
Amman 6 / 21
Agaba 14 / 31
Deserts 5 / 12
Jordan Valley 14 / 27

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 21, Agaba 31. Humidity readings: Amman 21 per cent, Agaba 17 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Amman governorate 801228
Amman Civil Defence 198, 199
Civil Defence (tribe) 271293, 273131
Civil Defence (tribe) 270733
Civil Defence (tribe) 62362
Ambulance (near Dar Al) 193, 77511
Amman downtown fire brigade 198
First aid 630341
Blood Bank 77

NEWS IN BRIEF

Khatib returns from Baghdad

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Information Mohammad Khatib returned to Amman on Sunday morning at the end of a four-day visit to Iraq where he was received by President Saddam Hussein and held talks with Iraqi Minister of Culture and Information Latif Jassem. Mr. Khatib also visited the warfront on Friday and was briefed on the current situation there. Talks during the visit covered Iraqi-Jordanian cooperation in information-related affairs. The minister was accompanied on the visit by Department of Culture and Arts Director Haidar Mahmoud, Jordan Radio Director Issam Arida, and the director of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Ali Safadi.

Fayez receives Iraqi speaker's message

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez on Sunday received a message from the speaker of the Iraqi National Council Sadoun Hamadi on the role of the Arab Parliamentary Union regarding current Arab events and developments in the Iran-Iraq war. The message was delivered to Mr. Fayez by Iraqi Ambassador in Amman Ghafel Jassem Hussein.

Decree approves loan agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree has been issued approving a law on a JD 2 million loan agreement with the Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. The loan will be used to finance the establishment of a joint insecticides factory between Jordan and Syria.

Jordan, Iraq and Egypt sign memo

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Jordan, Egypt and Iraq on Sunday signed memoranda endorsing an agreement on cooperation in maritime transport and establishing a joint maritime company. Agreement on this company was signed in Cairo in 1985. The memoranda were signed by Mr. Saleh Al Kabarti, Jordan's ambassador to Iraq, Fadel Shaher from the Iraqi Foreign Ministry and Mahmoud Abdul Qader Hafez, the official in charge of Egyptian national interests in Iraq. According to an Iraqi spokesman, the agreement will organise land and sea transport operations between the three countries.

Bus driver dies in crash with truck

AMMAN (Petra) — A bus driver, Jawdat Mahmoud Al Muwajdeh, was killed on Sunday when his bus collided with a heavy vehicle at the Kathrabba-Iraq junction in Karak governorate. No further details were available.

Aviation officials leave for S. Arabia

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian delegation on Sunday left for Saudi Arabia for talks on promoting Jordanian-Saudi Arabian cooperation in air transport operations. The two-member delegation groups Mr. Amir Al-Husseini, director-general of the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA), and Mr. Akel Bitaji, senior vice president of the Royal Jordanian airline. The two sides will focus attention on issues related to flights made by their respective national airlines to either country.

Universities discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — University of Jordan President Abdul Salam Al Majali on Sunday received Dr. Rashed Bashour, professor of health administration at Michigan University in the U.S. They discussed launching cooperation between the two universities in the exchange of programmes and scientific studies in public health and community medicine.

Turkish researcher to deliver lecture

AMMAN (J.T.) — Dr. Mehmet Maksutoglu from Marmara University in Istanbul, Turkey, will deliver a lecture on the importance of Arabic during the Ottoman age at the University of Jordan on Wednesday. The lecture will be delivered in Arabic at 12:00 a.m. at the university's Faculty of Arts.



Rock your socks off

AMMAN (J.T.) — The British Council has organised its first ever rock tour and the contemporary group Furniture will kick off the tour with three performances in Jordan under the patronage of His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah bin Al Hussein. According to a British Council press release a vast assortment of sound and light equipment will accompany the group and once on stage will produce spectacular effects. The concerts will have all the trimmings of a typical British rock concert. Furniture will perform for the students of Yarmouk University. On Thursday Feb. 26 at 7:00 p.m. and Friday 27 Feb. at 4:00 p.m. they will give concerts at the Palace of Culture. The popular local group Mirage will also be making guest appearances, and Furniture are looking forward to exchanging musical experiences with them, the release continued. Months of planning have gone into this rock tour which is the first ever to have been mounted by the British Council. Furniture was selected for their ability to set meaningful lyrics in the context of modern pop music and for their appeal to all those who love rock, the release concluded.

Swareddahab leaves heart institute

AMMAN (J.T.) — Former head of the military council of Sudan Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddahab left the Queen Alia Heart Institute on Sunday after recovering from successful open heart surgery which took place on Feb. 11.

In a statement upon leaving the centre, Field Marshal Swareddahab voiced his gratitude and deep appreciation to His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan for the care he received during his treatment and for the hospitality accorded to him in the country.

The heart centre, he said, is a source of pride for Arab countries in general and for Jordan in particular, in view of its high standard and the skill and efficiency of its physicians and specialists. Field Marshal Swareddahab was seen off by Lieutenant-General Daoud Hananiya, the director of the Armed Forces Royal Medical Services. When examined by the Queen Alia Heart Centre, Field Marshal



Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddahab leaves the Queen Alia Heart Institute after successful heart surgery (Petra photo)

House speakers brief Canadian parliamentarians on peace efforts

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akel Al Fayez on Sunday urged the Canadian parliament to take a supportive stand with regard to the rights of the Palestinian people and to use its influence to help bring about a just solution to the Middle East problem.

Mr. Fayez, who was speaking during a meeting with a visiting Canadian delegation at the parliament building in Amman, urged the delegation to meet Arab leaders in the occupied West Bank and to study closely the situation in the Israeli-held territory and the conditions of the Arab inhabitants there. He also said the delegation should note Israel's inhuman treatment of the Arab residents and the arbitrary measures against Arab educational, economic and cultural organisations.

The delegation, led by Senator Lorne Bonnell, arrived here Saturday evening on a six-day visit to Jordan, including a two-day visit to the occupied West Bank.

During the meeting, which was attended by other members of the Lower House of Parliament, Mr. Fayez spoke at length about the Palestinian problem, Israel's occupation and United Nations Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He said that Jordan, under His Majesty King Hussein, has been seeking a just and lasting solution to the problem and has been responsive to all initiatives for peace. Jordan has supported the idea of an international conference to be attended by the concerned parties and the U.N. Security Council members in order to achieve a lasting solution and comprehensive peace.

Mr. Fayez explained. He went on to say that Israel's intransigent stand and continued United States support for Israel have been directly responsible for the failure of previous efforts directed towards peace. In the occupied Arab territories, the Arab residents are being subjected to inhuman treatment by the Israeli authorities which are violating all human rights and international principles, confiscating Arab property and building settlements and colonies on Arab land, Mr. Fayez added. He said Jordan, for its part, has been extending all possible help to the residents of the occupied territories to enhance their steadfastness and enable them to resist Israel's arbitrary measures. Jordan now plans to implement a five-year economic and social plan for the territories as part of this continuing support, he said.

On the Gulf War, Mr. Fayez said that Jordan continues to support the Iraqi people against aggression and continues to call for a peaceful settlement to the war which threatens the whole Gulf region.

The Canadian delegation later met Mr. Ahmad Al Lawzi, speaker of the Upper House of Parliament, who discussed the situation in the Middle East and Jordan's endeavours to find a lasting solution to the Palestinian problem.

Referring to the proposed international conference, Mr. Lawzi said that it represents the only possible forum for establishing a comprehensive peace. Israel, he said, is going ahead with plans to obstruct such a conference because it wants to perpetuate its occupation of Arab land.

Mr. Lawzi said that Canada, with its sphere of influence world wide and its relations with Europe and the Middle East, could play a positive role in giving momentum to the peace process.

The visit of the Canadian delegation to Jordan, he said, is a good opportunity for them to familiarise themselves with the situation in the region. Jordan's role and its endeavours to achieve a lasting peace.

Senator Bonnell said Canada realises that the Middle East question and the Gulf War, as well as the Arab-Israeli conflict, pose a serious threat to world peace.

He said that the delegation does not represent the official Canadian government but rather, has an independent nature and its members are affiliated to an Arab-Canadian parliamentary group, visiting the Middle East on a familiarisation trip.

Earlier, the delegation met Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan who spoke about Jordan's five-year development plan and

the volume of investments in different schemes.

Dr. Kanaan and the Canadian delegation reviewed bilateral trade, economic ties and recently signed agreements between the two countries. These agreements covered economic cooperation, trade and oil exploration.

The minister referred to the Jordanian-sponsored five-year development plan for the occupied West Bank which he said is designed to support the steadfastness of the Arab people living under Israeli rule.

He said that the economic and social development plan is bound to help ease unemployment and reduce emigration resulting from the deteriorating economic conditions.

The Canadian delegation also met with Dr. Jawad Al Anani, president of the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), who reviewed Jordan's economic performance and the adverse effects on the economy brought about by the 1967 Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

At a meeting with the members of the Jordan Forum Humanum, the Canadian delegation were briefed on the objectives of the forum and the services it offers, especially to youth.

The Canadian delegation later visited the Martyr's Monument and toured its various sections. They saw photos and items on display which relate the story of Great Arab Revolt and the development of the Armed Forces. The monument's medals was presented to the guest delegation as a commemorative gift.

Egypt agrees to buy more Jordanian cement

CAIRO (Petra) — Jordan and Egypt have reached agreement on increasing shipments of Jordanian cement to Egypt to one million tonnes annually, up from 750,000. The announcement was made in Cairo on Sunday by Dr. Khaldoun Al Thaher, director general of the Jordan Cement Factories Company (JCFC), following talks with Dr. Yassir Mustafa, Egyptian minister of economy and foreign trade.

Dr. Thaher said that he also discussed cement shipments and related topics with Mr. Kamal Al Hilali, the chairman of the board of the Nasr Company for Imports and Exports which is responsible for the implementation of the Jordanian-Egyptian agreement. Dr. Thaher who arrived in Egypt from Khartoum said he would meet Egyptian Minister of Housing Hasaballah Al Kafrawi on Monday.

Last week, Dr. Thaher visited Khartoum and said he held talks with officials and importers of cement on the prospects of selling

them Jordanian cement. He said this could be included within an agreement on trade and economic cooperation which will be signed by Jordan and Sudan in the coming month.

A vessel loaded with 28,000 tonnes of Jordanian cement left the port city of Aqaba for Egypt on Sunday. It is the fourth vessel carrying Jordanian cement to leave the port since the recent conclusion of an agreement for the sale of 750,000 tonnes of cement to Egypt.

A spokesman for the Port Corporation said that a fifth vessel is being loaded with cement in accordance with the agreement and a shipping programme.

The first shipment was made early in January this year, and according to port officials 60,000 tonnes of cement will be shipped each month. Lorries are being used to transport the cement from the former South Cement Company to Aqaba where it is shipped in bulk on board vessels to a packing factory in Suez.

Senate endorses 1984, 1985 budget supplements, laws on contracting and appropriation

By Rana Sabbagh
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) on Sunday endorsed by a show of hands all additional supplementary spending by the government following an extensive debate on the legality of such action.

Prime Minister Zaid Rifai argued before the Senate that the government was acting within constitutional provisions and logic when it issued a series of budget supplements involving a total of JD 100 million in expenditure outside the allocations made in the 1984 and 1985 budgets.

Defending some of the supplements which were issued before Parliament reconvened in 1984 after a 10-year suspension, the prime minister said article 94 of the constitution empowered the Cabinet to take such a step, subject to approval from His Majesty King Hussein. On other supplements, issued after Parliament was reconvened, the prime minister said logic had dictated that the government should go ahead with the extra spending without waiting for parliamentary approval. Defending his point, the prime minister said budget additions "have become a tradition and common practice."

Citing examples which he said warranted speedy government intervention without parliamentary backing, the prime minister said the 1984 supplement was called for after government subsidy of fuel and food exceeded projected budget allocations in 1983.

"Costs for subsidising fuel and food supplies were estimated at JD 14.5 million and JD 4 million respectively. However, the true values of subsidies paid for these two items during 1983 reached JD 36.9 million and JD 5.274,000," said Mr. Rifai.

Referring to other "unforeseen" expenditure in 1983, Mr. Rifai said allocations for financing Parliament's operations were not included in the budget. "So, should we stop subsidies until a law is issued and approved, the prime minister asked Senators. "How could we calculate beforehand the cost in real terms before we know our final accounts?"

According to Parliament analysts, Mr. Rifai's statements were seen as an attempt to "diffuse a recent parliamentary uproar," on whether or not the government was acting in accordance with constitutional provisions on public spending. Deputies said that additional spending in 1985 alone reached JD 85 million — a relatively high ratio amounting to 10 per cent of the whole fiscal budget.

Deputies and senators were divided on whether or not the government was entitled to issue new credits before a draft supplementary law to this effect had been endorsed by Parliament.

Parliament members, who criticised what they described as "unconstitutional spending," cited article 115 of the constitution which says: "All money collected from taxes and other local revenues has to be deposited in the treasury and included in the general fiscal budget, unless a law stipulates otherwise. No public treasury money is allocated for expenditure unless authorised by a law."

They also referred to article 94 of the constitution which says that such supplementary laws could be issued by the Cabinet only when Parliament is in recess or dissolved, if a Royal Decree endorsing the law has been issued.

However, such laws that would have to be taken in cases of urgency, would still have to be presented to Parliament's first meeting for debate.

Moreover, members of both Houses who supported the gov-

ernment's previous and present budgeting policies, said that article 94 did not specifically mention whether the required additional spending was to be issued before or after the actual allocation and spending.

Need for revisions

Citing the controversy, financial committee rapporteur Khalil Al Salem proposed amendments to chapter seven of the constitution which covers the Kingdom's financial and budgeting affairs.

Senator Salem said there was a dire need for revisions in the constitution in order to limit and regulate additional spending as well as clarifying the Parliament's role in the process. Senators Hassan Al Kayed and Walid Salah said that although they approved previous government additional spending, they asked that Parliament's consent be taken before any similar action is taken in the future.

Sunday's meeting also approved the 1986 contracting law and another six-year old legislation on land appropriation. The Senate endorsed both laws but only after the Lower House included modifications on both laws upon the request of the Upper House.

Senate amendments on Jordan's first ever contracting law, halved the commissions taken by the Jordanian Contracting Association (JCA) on each tendered public project, and stipulated that while the association's president should be a grade one contractor, his deputy could either be a class one or two contractor.

The modifications also paved the way for foreign embassies stationed in Amman to use whichever contractor they wished concerning the execution of their tendered projects or for maintenance reasons.

Changes introduced by the

Senators on the law on land appropriations removed all time limits set for the government use of appropriated land. Deputies earlier put a limit of five years for the use of appropriated land by the government, after which the owner had the right to reclaim his land through legal means.

The 30-member Senate also approved the Kingdom's first ever law governing the use of nuclear energy in the fields of medicine, industry, technology and mining and offering protection against nuclear radiation. Violators of the law's articles on the use and purchase of nuclear equipment as well as the user's official authorisation to use such machines and to operate on them will be fined between JD 5,000 to JD 15,000, or imprisoned for a minimum of one to three years.

An 11-member technical committee for nuclear energy consultation chaired by the health minister to suggest policies and plans to develop the use of this power in Jordan will be set up in accordance with the 1986 law.

Local press reports recently suggested the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) has plans to set up a regional network for monitoring radioactivity.

The Senators also referred to its legal committee two draft laws: the 1986 Jordan Agricultural Marketing Organisation (JAMO), and an amendment to the 1977 legislation on organisations with movable assets.

Suggested amendments to the 1984 law on investments was also referred to the Senate financial committee along with two other agreements signed between the government of Jordan and the Arab Fund for Socio-Economic Development (AFSED) to finance part of the Zaza Ghor Haditha highway and a section of the Zaza River basin scheme.

New Senator appointed

On another front, a Royal Decree was issued on Sunday appointing Mr. Salem Ibn Nijad as a Senator to succeed Mr. Mohammad Odeh Abu El Tayeh, who passed away last month. The newly-named Senator will be sworn in during the forthcoming Senate session.

Ministry plans to establish five poultry slaughterhouses

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture plans to set up five poultry slaughterhouses in different governorates with the purpose of meeting the local market's needs of poultry meat.

Minister of Agriculture Marwan Hmoud said that a special committee chaired by himself and grouping representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture, Supply, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the private sector has been formed to undertake measures for the expansion of poultry slaughterhouses in Amman and Irbid.

For the time being, Mr. Hmoud said that a special committee chaired by himself and grouping representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture, Supply, Municipal and Rural Affairs and the private sector has been formed to undertake measures for the expansion of poultry slaughterhouses in Amman and Irbid.

Hindawi reviews preparations for opening UNESCO office

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Education Thouqan Hindawi on Sunday held a meeting with Dr. Mohammad Kazem, director of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) Amman office to discuss preparations for next month's official opening of the organisation's regional office.

A ceremony will be held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan at the Royal Cultural Centre on March 8 for the opening of the UNESCO office, according to a spokesman for the Ministry of

Education. He said that the minister and Dr. Kazem also discussed preparations for a visit to Jordan on the occasion of the inauguration of the office by UNESCO Director General Amadou Mahtar M'Bow.

According to Dr. Kazem, the Amman UNESCO office, established last August under an agreement with the Jordanian government, supervises educational cooperation between UNESCO and Arab countries, especially in the fields of computer sciences and technology.

Bodies found in Aqaba and Madaba

AMMAN (J.T.) — The body of an 18-year old youth has been found in Aqaba and the police said the youth had been identified as A.F.A. from the Marrikh district of Amman. The coronor's examination of the body showed that the young man had been stabbed with a knife in several parts of his chest, stomach and neck, causing his death.

Al Dustour newspaper reported that the body of a 19-year old man from Sahab has been pulled out of a pool at Heidan district of Madaba. The paper said that the man, identified as Mohammad Abdul Fattah, had been reported missing by his relatives two days earlier. It also said that he had earlier been in the company of three friends who went out on a picnic together.

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NCR CORPORATION

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NCR corporation held a regional conference for its Middle East managers at the Plaza Hotel in Amman during the period Feb. 17-21. The conference was attended by directors of the company's regional centres in Cyprus as well as managers of the company's branches in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq and Sudan. During the conference, participants discussed the company's marketing policies for its new products in the region and means for further promoting and developing the computer market and its services in the local markets. The company's branch in Jordan has been offering its services to the local market for the past 30 years during which it installed the first computer appliances in Jordan. In the photo above shows part of the conference's opening ceremony.

Jordan Times

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Move with hope

THE cheers that greeted the Syrian force that entered West Beirut on Sunday to quell militia anarchy and violence, represent some hope that an end could be found to the continuous bloodletting and disaster that Lebanon has been witnessing over the past 12 years. We sincerely share in this hope and based on this we have to see the Syrian move as a signal that some kind of a good omen of better things to come is in the offing for Lebanon. The shouts of joy that welcomed the Syrian soldiers into the streets of Beirut should act as a reminder to the war-loving militia leaders of Lebanon that their ambitions for political supremacy through violence are not shared by their countrymen.

The rejection of the Syrian move by President Amin Gemayel and his rightist supporters was only to be expected. But Damascus has already sought to allay fears of an eventual Syrian domination of Lebanese politics on the ground by declaring publicly that it was not taking sides in the conflict. Then, it needs only a moment of reflection to realise that regardless of the opposition, the Syrian move did in fact manage to end a week of violence that claimed at least 200 lives and caused millions of dollars in material damage.

The Syrian intervention comes at a time when the Arab World at large has become psychologically prepared to accept the eventuality of any external force intervening to put a decisive end to militia feuds that have gone on unchecked for too long. There seemed to be no alternatives to such a situation arising. Someone had to move in and tell those warlords in unequivocal and unambiguous terms that enough was enough and a solution had to be imposed on every one in order to end the anarchy and stop the bloodshed.

Perhaps those who oppose the Syrian intervention on political grounds would be better advised to think about their own priorities and realise that there was no other way for the Lebanese to end the years of agony and suffering brought about by a civil war which saw new alliances being forged and broken every day while nothing was done to alleviate the immense suffering of Lebanon and the whole Lebanese people.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Resistance continues

ANTI-Israeli protests in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip have entered their 14th day with the counter-Israeli repressive measures failing to stem the resistance and preventing it from spreading to all occupied Arab regions. What is happening in the occupied territory is a true image of legitimate resistance to occupation, confronted by one of the ugliest terrorist campaigns ever launched against civilians and defenseless people. What is happening in the occupied territories is a true image of total Israeli failure to subdue the indigenous population or evict them from their homeland. For this reason, the European Community's foreign ministers meeting in Brussels should study the situation objectively and responsibly, and ought to understand that the resistance and the violence now being carried out in the occupied territories are not separate from the core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but rather part of it, and should therefore be tackled immediately. At their meeting which opens Monday, the European ministers ought to realise that the Arabs are rising in force against the Israelis who continue to occupy their homeland and deny them their legitimate rights. The current uprising against the Israelis is being carried out by people who are demanding their land and their right, and who continually face Israeli terrorism and intimidation which is reminiscent of Nazi atrocities during the World War II. The uprising in the occupied Arab lands is a loud call on the Arab countries to help their kinsmen in the struggle for freedom.

Al Dustour: Saudis campaign for summit

THERE are persistent reports about Saudi Arabia's intention of dispatching envoys to Arab countries for consultation on the prospect of holding an Arab summit conference, and to overcome the obstacles still impeding solidarity among Arab states. These efforts come at a most opportune time, in the wake of the fifth Islamic summit which was able to remove the barriers and melt the ice that froze inter-Arab relations. The fifth Islamic summit in Kuwait, where Arab leaders held side meetings, has opened the way for further endeavours to rally the Arabs and unify their ranks so that they can handle the very critical situation they are going through. We sincerely hope that Saudi Arabia will succeed in this effort, and end differences between Arab countries, and we are certain that Saudi Arabia's quiet and wise diplomacy will eventually achieve the best results for the Arab Nation. We also hope that a summit meeting will open a new chapter in inter-Arab relations, which is instrumental for joint action and for dealing with the common problems and the common challenges.

Sawt Al Shaab: King pursues mission

KING Hussein's visit to Austria is part of his continued efforts for establishing a just and durable peace in the Middle East region. The visit comes at a time when Jordan is trying to enlist support from world nations for the proposed international conference which serve as the best forum for the achievement of a comprehensive peace. The Europeans have expressed support for the idea of the conference and it is hoped that they will also offer help to Jordan to enable it to carry out economic and social development plans for the people of the East as well as the West Bank of Jordan. The role of the Europeans is emerging in this context, thanks to King Hussein's endeavours, but as this European role surfaces the United States credibility continues to decline. Washington's prestige was dealt a devastating blow by the scandal of the arms deal with Iran and its persistence to dispatch more arms shipments to an aggressor country that boasts about its intentions of occupying other countries' territory by force. The King's visits to Europe, which began in France and Italy and now followed by one to Austria, are all designed to enlist European countries support for Jordan's true endeavours for peace that would end the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Gulf war.

Bitter and sweet harvests of free press

By Dr. Waleed Sa'di

ACCORDING to various international organisations that monitor press censorship and the treatment of the press personnel, the years of 1985 and 1986 were particularly bad years for free press with many journalists either killed or missing or disappeared or expelled or imprisoned at an unprecedented rate unrivaled in the recent past. This phenomenon of mistreatment of the freedom of the press is taking place in many parts of the world inspite of the various international and national instruments and legislations that are designed to protect the media from abuse and harassment. What is worth mentioning in the regard is that these happenings against free press are taking place when the press is performing formidable tasks against great odds and risks to expose the truth and uncover covert duplicities. Suffice to recall at this juncture that it was the disclosures made by the Beirut Al-Shira weekly journal about the arms deals between Washington and Tehran via Tel Aviv which had set the follow-up shocking revelations into motion. It was that every Beirut weekly journal which President Ronald Reagan had referred to at the time as "that rag in Beirut," which had exposed the tip of the iceberg called Irangate. Till that point in time, Al Shira's was unknown regionally or internationally. International mass media caught the "end of the line" made accessible by Al Shira's journal and was able to build on it by reporting further exposures about that scandal.

Imagine, if you please, in what darkness we would all be, regarding the unholy alliance between Washington, Tel Aviv and Tehran, if the international community was denied aggressive and free press? It would have been highly risky, if our governments were left to articulate and adopt their policies on wrong and misleading information. Where would we be, whether in Iraq, which was a victim of deliberate campaign to mislead its war plans by providing it with doctored satellite information with a view to keep the war between it and Iran on indefinitely, or in other parts of the Arab World including ours in Jordan which never occurred to it that the U.S. could be involved in such acts of duplicity, if we continued to be denied the kind and quality of information provided to us all by free press? Surely we would have continued to labour under woefully wrong information to the detriment of our national interests. It was certainly no great relief to us in the Arab World to hear that Iran was likewise a victim of the same type of disinformation with a view to enhance the chances of bringing Tehran closer to the bosom of Washington.

There is no doubt that the disclosures about the arms deals with Iran have caused policy makers in the Middle East to review their calculations and revamp their strategies and bilateral relations with Washington. It was as if the secret code of the U.S. foreign policies vis-a-vis our region has been suddenly deciphered. There is no denying that the credit for this review of our relations with the U.S. goes solely to free press which had shed the light on the whole affair.

And the vital services of free and aggressive press were not confined to the Iran situation. Who could forget the shocking disclosures made by the Israeli daily newspaper *Ha'aretz* on the clubbing to death of two Palestinians who hijacked an Israeli bus back in 1985? Didn't these startling disclosures help expose Israel's atrocities towards the Palestinian people and show the true colour of the Israeli regime? All other incidents and cases of inhuman and degrading treatments to which our people in the occupied territories were subjected would have never seen the light of the day without free and courageous press. Another example is that of the Vanuno affair, the case of Mordachai Vanuno, the Israeli nuclear technician who shocked the Arab World with his disclosures about the true magnitude and dimension of the Israeli nuclear capability. It was the Sunday Times of London which assumed all sorts of risks and bravely published the information provided by Mr. Vanuno. I doubt that any intelligence agency had hitherto access to that kind of information about Israeli nuclear bombs and the means of their deliveries.

In other parts of the world, the importance of free press have been amply demonstrated in more than one occasion, even on issues of life and death. A classic case in point is the Chernobyl nuclear accident which occurred in the Soviet Union last spring and which caused damage to life and environment in and outside the Soviet Union. Had there been free and responsible press it would not have taken so many days before the full extent of that accident became known to the Soviet people as well as to the peoples affected outside the Soviet Union.

One can go on and on indefinitely recording the great and indispensable achievements of free press in Latin America, Africa and the Far East. The list is indeed endless; one can never accord full credit to the vital revelations made possible by free press. Uppermost on man's mind in this context is the Watergate affair which exposed the inner workings of governments and political parties in one of the most sophisticated countries of the world. Many similar scandals in other parts of the world were also uncovered due to responsible and vigorous press. How can we and our respective governments make sound judgments and proper choices without the aid and comfort of free press?

But the validity of all the foregoing propositions are dependent on the satisfaction of two criteria: The reporting must be truthful and must be conducted in a responsible manner. These two catching words "truthful" and "responsible" are certainly legitimate constraints which must be reckoned with and accord their due in order to render free press beneficial and with redeeming values. The issue of truth is indeed very complex and assumes an even more complex connotation because there is no absolute truth as such. The crux of the matter is how to determine what is true and what is not and who shall make such determination. If there is only

some mechanism which can sift fact from falsehood, the tasks of editors world-wide would be much simpler. There is no doubt that in the final analysis the issue of truth is organically linked with the issue of responsible reporting for there is no practical way of separating the two sides of the same coin. That's why the editors of the press or radio and television agencies carry awesome responsibilities on their shoulders. They are asked to perform their editorial duties and functions in the most responsible way in the sense that they and only they must determine and ascertain in the most humanly possible way the veracity of the news to be printed or broadcast and concurrently decide whether in their most unbiased and detached judgment the news to be printed or broadcast have also redeeming values and relevances. In the final analysis they have to answer to their conscience and to the judgment of their constituencies be they the government or the public.

Likewise it has to be borne in mind at all times that whereas freedom of the press is well provided for, protected and assured by practically all national and internal legislations, there is little body of laws on the scope, definition and dimension of freedom of the press. The rule of thumb in this context, which has been followed and observed in this context, has been to assert the principle of freedom of press and then to proceed to allow for reasonable and legitimate encroachments on that state decision. To cite only a few examples of lawful encroachment on the rule of freedom of press, the advocacy and promotion of racism and religious intolerance and the divulging of state secrets and the like unlawful objectives have been prevented from exploiting or abusing the principle of free press to propagate such causes. And even clearer example on the limitation of free press could be the subject of pornography. This is an issue which has divided the world, with the Western democracies constraining free press as to allow for the dissemination of even pornography and the screening of the so-called blue films; while the rest of the world refusing and rejecting such liberal interpretation of the basic rule of free press. Surely the qualms against pornography and blue films are reasonable and legitimate, and in our culture in the Middle East, there is unanimity of opinion that there are frontiers for free press which must not be trespassed with impunity.

The overriding remaining issue is how and who should control the press and other modes of mass media. There is no doubt that the control must be made by the instrument of legislations and codes of conduct which the judicial system should adjudicate. The press as an institution as well as the state have each their respective and sometimes opposing vested interests in this domain. It has been demonstrated time and again that the most suitable instrument to reconcile the contradictory vested interests of the two parties lies in the judiciary aided and abetted by adequate body of laws. In our country, one could venture to suggest that perhaps the Supreme Court of Justice should be allocated the jurisdiction over issues related to free press.

Analysts see U.S.-Israeli disagreements as part of game

By Michael Batty

WASHINGTON — A series of public disagreements between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and the Reagan administration will not dent the enormously strong ties between Israel and the Arabs.

Some said they saw the disagreements, particularly over U.S. arms sales to Arab nations and the possibility of an international Middle East peace conference leading to direct, Arab-Israeli talks, as pro forma and meaningless.

Shamir, during three days of talks here this week, bluntly rejected a proposal by Secretary of State George Shultz that he consider an international conference as a way to get direct peace talks under way.

He also refused to consider easing Israel's opposition to the Arab arms sales.

Washington sees the sales as important in trying to recover ground it lost in the Arab World by secretly selling arms to Iran at a time when a U.S. embargo was in effect and the administration was urging others not to deal with Tehran.

Referring to the airing of differences this week, Robert Hunter, Middle East expert at the private Centre for Strategic and International Studies, told Reuters: "It doesn't add up to any damage because there is no ambition in the U.S. government to do anything."

"We are sufficiently involved in the Middle East to get into trouble, but not sufficiently involved to do something about it," he added.

Jim Phillips of the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank reputed to have the administration's ear, said Washington had not expected Shamir to agree to easing opposition to arms sales.

"He is the last person to say, 'sure, go ahead,' and they know it. That was for Arab consumption," he said of the administration's pressure on Shamir to change his stance.

Hunter, like most other analysts interviewed by Reuters, said neither President Reagan, who backed the idea of an international conference, nor Shultz was under any illusion that Shamir would agree.

"The idea of the conference isn't going anywhere anyway. So Israel gives its pro forma refusal, and that's that," Hunter said.

Judith Kipper of the Brookings Institution think tank agreed, saying Washington's interest in a conference only became serious when Shimon Peres, Shamir's predecessor under a rotation agreement in their coalition government, came out in favour of the idea last year.

She said it was possible that Washington was promoting an idea it knew Shamir could not accept as part of a subtle game to help Peres regain power through early elections.

Under the coalition agreement, Peres was prime minister for two years, then last October switched positions with Shamir to become foreign minister.

In that position, Peres has backed consistently the idea of an international conference convened by the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council, including the Soviet Union, as a means to get swiftly to direct talks between Israel and the Arabs.

"It's a Peres electoral card, in that if an international conference can be put together with the Soviets and most of the Arabs agreeing, it could mean early elections in Israel which would be a referendum on a conference."

"That could help Peres get elected, which would be better for the United States which has always had more in common with (Peres') Labour (Party) than with (Shamir's) Likud," she said.

Barry Rubin of the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), an administration critic, said he did not believe the proposal had been advanced seriously

because the U.S. government did not want to get deeply involved in seeking Middle East peace.

"The administration would have been upset if Shamir had endorsed it because it would have called their hand," he said.

But he said the administration "has made reasonable efforts to get talks going" and strong U.S.-Israeli ties were crucial to peace prospects.

"Those have not been damaged at all and it is precisely the strong relationship that leads Arab countries to want Washington to be part of the peace process."

The analysts said they saw the Shamir visit to Washington as a success because it was carried off without the Israeli role in the Iran arms affair becoming a major point of contention and it appeared to close the door on the case of U.S. navy analyst Jonathan Pollard, caught spying for Israel.

Palestinians are harassed in Los Angeles

By Anthony Lewis

BOSTON — She is a 22-year-old woman, a student in San Diego, California. Born in Ramallah, in the West Bank, she came to the United States at the age of 3 and is an American citizen. On the telephone she sounds like California. I shall call her Evelyn Bitar, which is not real name.

"I was studying alone in the school library on the night of Jan. 28. At about 8:30 a large man came up and shoved a paper in front of me. It said 'subpoena' and had my name on it. He flashed what looked like a badge and said, 'Evelyn, we want you to come with us.' He had a gun in a holster at his waist. He took my left arm and handcuffed me to his right arm. Another man — he also showed a gun — came over and grabbed me roughly by the right arm. They took me out to a dark burgundy car, cuffed my hands in front of me and shoved me into the back seat."

That was the beginning of a

nightmare 12 hours for Evelyn Bitar. I take her words from an affidavit that she drafted afterward, and from a telephone conversation with her.

What happened to her is related to her Palestinian origin. Two days before her experience, eight Palestinians (and one Kenyan wife) had been arrested in the Los Angeles area by agents of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalisation Service. She was a friend of one of them. But let us continue with her story.

"We drove for some time when they made me face backwards. In a residential area we drove into a garage and I was taken into the house, into a big bare room with a cement floor. There was a big metal pole set in the cement floor. It had a hook at the top, sort of like a tetherball pole. I was thrown into a grey metal chair, still handcuffed. The room was dimly lit, but with a bright fluorescent light coming at my

face. "They threw a picture down on the desk. It was a picture of me, my husband and X (the friend who had been arrested). They slapped it and said, 'who is this man, identify him.'"

"I refused and said what they were doing to me was illegal. One said, 'Honey, we are the law.' They kept throwing pictures on the desk. They were all pictures from San Diego, some from the old Arabic club..."

"It was after midnight by now. They uncuffed my right hand, then cuffed my left hand to the hook on the top of the metal pole. My left arm was stretched up to reach it. Then they left the house and left me hanging there like that for over three hours. They came back around 3:30 with a third man. I asked if I could use the bathroom. I was desperate to go. They would not let me."

"They told me that my husband was in custody, that they had just picked him up. (That was

false.) They said we could work out a deal. I could be a witness for the prosecution of X. If I would do that, they would let my husband go."

"When I still didn't respond, they said, 'At your rally you said, 'Long Live Palestine.' We'll show you what we think of your Palestine.'"

"They took out a small Palestinian flag, about 3 by 5 inches [about 75 by 125 millimeters], and burned it."

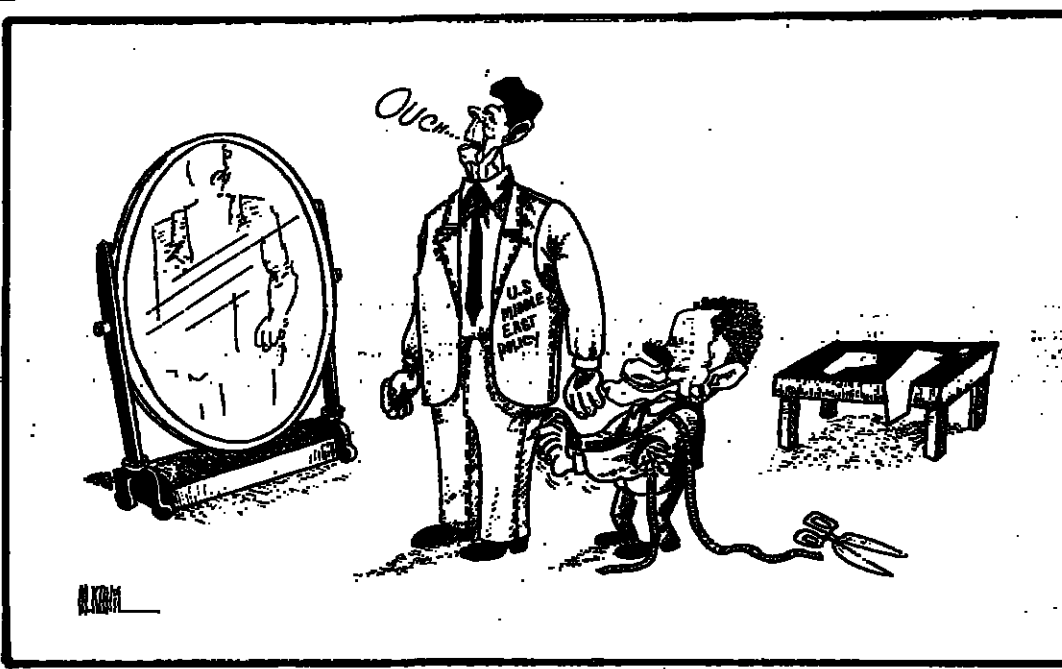
"Then they took me out, back into the car. They stopped about two miles [about three kilometres] from my house. They said, 'Listen, Babe, when you least expect us, expect us. We'll always be around.' I looked at my watch. It was 3:30 a.m."

Could that have happened in America? Readers will no doubt find it hard to believe, as I did. So did Evelyn Bitar. She was too frightened to talk, at first. But now she is ready to testify, using her real name, if her lawyers ask her to.

The eight Palestinians arrested in Los Angeles were taken at gunpoint in their homes at 7 a.m., then shackled in arm and leg irons. Each was shown photographs and offered advantages if he would testify against someone. There was no evidence that they had done or contemplated any act of violence. The charges had to do with reading or distributing Palestinian literature.

But that is another story of unconstitutional outrage. For the moment, it is enough to think about what happened to Evelyn Bitar. Is that America?

Realism requires us to recognise that it can happen. It has happened. But it is not too late to find out how; to punish the federal agents who behaved like totalitarian thugs. "When we speak out," Mrs. Bitar said, "that's our only protection." She still believes in America — The New York Times.



Vietnamese leadership takes first step towards reforms

By Tom Heneghan

BANGKOK — Vietnam's new Communist leaders have taken a first step towards long-overdue economic reforms by sacking 13 cabinet members and streamlining their ministries. Western diplomats said Wednesday.

The surprise reshuffle, announced Tuesday, confirmed Hanoi wanted pragmatic solutions to the economic stagnation plaguing the country since it was reunified in 1975, they said.

It also indicated reformist leader Nguyen Van Linh was probably in firmer control than believed since he took over as the party's general secretary last December, they said.

But the shake-up did not reach the old guard at the top — former politburo members President Truong Chinh and Prime Minister

Pham Van Dong — and questions remain about how quickly Linh will be able to bring change to the stagnating economy.

In the reshuffle, Defence Minister Van Tien Dung and Interior Minister Pham Hung were sacked along with 11 other cabinet members. Four of 23 ministries were abolished.

"This has to be a compromise between the hardliners who were kicked out of the party and the reformers now running the party," said one envoy who asked not to be named.

"They had to do this (reshuffle) to shake out some of the dead wood and make the government more efficient."

Chinh and Dung quit the ruling politburo last December after a rising tide of criticism from party members demanding pragmatic steps to counter Vietnam's triple-digit inflation, poor food supplies

and widespread unemployment.

A national assembly session later that month failed to name a new cabinet, a move interpreted then as a sign that reformists and hard-liners were at loggerheads over Hanoi's future course.

Linh, who introduced flexible economic management in the former South Vietnam after taking over as party chief in Ho Chi Minh City after the war, appeared further weakened last month when Chinh, Dong and former party ideologist Le Duc Tho were given unprecedented sweeping powers as politburo advisers.

But the diplomats saw Linh's hand in the reshuffle, which also brought his Ho Chi Minh City colleague Mai Chi Tho — Le Duc Tho's younger brother — into the cabinet as interior minister. "Linh seems to be stronger

than people thought," one diplomat observed.

The appointment of new chiefs for nine ministries also means the reformers should be in a good position to influence the make-up of the national assembly due to be elected in April.

The reformers now make up a majority in the cabinet. Eight others became members in a similar reshuffle in June 1986 after hardliners were swept out of several economic ministries.

The politburo has already called on ageing national assembly members to step down to allow a more vigorous group to emerge from the polls.

Diplomats said the new ministers seemed to be mostly little-known technocrats, a sign the leadership wanted to stress efficiency in its drive to get the economy moving. Their problem now would be to

win the senior and middle levels of their bureaucracies over to flexible economic policies resulting in less official control and possibly fewer state jobs, they added.

The elimination of several narrowly-focused and competing ministries — with their workload being absorbed by other offices — should cut out some of Hanoi's frequent bureaucratic struggles, another envoy said.

United Nations aid officials say they must usually deal with about five different ministries before getting a development project approved.

Besides his attempt to streamline the government, Linh, 71, has also begun a major drive to tighten party discipline by purging corrupt members and punishing those who did not carry out party policy.

Of course great pyramid is huge, but how much does it weigh?

By Mimi Mann
The Associated Press

GIZA, Egypt — Everyone agrees that the great pyramid of Cheops is big on the outside. Some speculate that if you hacked it into cubes of one foot (30 cm.) on a side, the cubes could stretch two-thirds of the way around the earth.

But there's more controversy about Cheops' inside, where mysterious chambers have lain uncharted for 4,600 years. Now, a team of French scientists hopes to map those chambers by springtime, and will weigh the giant pyramid in the process.

Jacques Montheucon heads a three-man French technical team on a 20-day project that has them scampering up and down and around the massive stones that ancient piled one by one to build the most impressive of some 80 pyramids of Egypt.

Cheops, largest of the three pyramids adorning Giza plateau, cover 13.1 acres at its base and is thought to comprise more than 2.3 million limestone blocks weighing 2½ tonnes each.

"We're going to weigh Cheops, and we'll do it with this," the Frenchman said, stabilising his microgravimeter against an enormous boulder.

A metal box the size and shape of an automobile battery, the microgravimeter is used in France to locate underground caves, quarries, trenches and tunnels. By measuring minute changes in the gravitational pull on a suspended weight, the instrument defines variations in subterranean density, from empty space to solid rock.

In Egypt, the French team hopes to use the machine to pinpoint chambers hidden when the pyramid was built 4,600 years ago.

The work hasn't been easy. The microgravimeter demands quiet. But there always is a lot of

life around the monument associated with the death of pharaoh Cheops.

Egyptians are drawn by its magic. For them, Cheops is a very personal pyramid.

Goats graze lazily on grass between the stones, and families picnic and play games at the base of the pyramid. Children belly dance to blasts from transistor radios. Camel drivers bellow to foreign tourists to don fake Arab headdresses. The animals bellow as the tourists unsteadily climb aboard for their first and perhaps only camel ride.

Horses and horse carts race at full speed on roadways around the pyramid. Young Egyptians defy regulations and risk death by climbing to the top to the cheers of onlookers below.

Last September, when the French tried to reach hidden cavities by boring three holes into a huge rock alongside the queen's chamber, they ignored the bedlam and worked in the daytime.

"This time we've had to come early in the morning and work after 4 p.m., when everybody is thrown out of the pyramid, before and after people gather at the base," Montheucon said.

Sitting near a hole hacked in the 9th century by treasure-seeking troops, the Frenchmen waited for quiet on a cool February day.

Outside, a band played to the cheers of a crowd.

Inside, guards were having trouble ejecting a group of high school students. They had spent hours sliding down ramps leading up and down the grand gallery, a passage to the king's chamber and one of the world's most amazing architectural feats.

With the quiet, work resumed. A French technician groped for balance as he pulled an extension cord up a steep, dark incline.

"This is new territory for us," Montheucon said as the microgravimeter silently recorded what lay behind the walls.



Egyptian and Japanese technicians work next to the Sphinx and the great pyramid of Cheops in Giza to solve the puzzle over the purpose of cavities found.

"We're taking more than 400 measurements during the first 20 days of February from the tip of the pyramid to the chamber under the ground. We want to find what kinds of rocks made up the structure, how they are layered. When a portion of the pyramid doesn't weigh as much as expected, there should be spaces between the blocks."

The team expects eventually to have a three-dimensional profile of how Cheops is built, including chambers currently known and unknown. Results from this mission, ending in late February, should be known by the spring.

Montheucon said he wants no contest between his team and a Japanese group also searching Cheops and Giza plateau for cavities.

"Cheops is a wonderful pyramid," he said. "This is not a circus. This is not a treasure hunt. This is serious work. We're conducting a survey."

"By weighing Cheops we believe we can locate cavities our instruments say are there, but I don't want a race between the Japanese and French to see who finds them first and where. The work is too important for fighting."

Tunisian seeks to make Arab music international

By Issam Hamza
Reuters

ABU DHABI — Tunisian composer Mohammad Al Mahdi says Arab music has all the elements of an international idiom — without the worldwide recognition it deserves.

He has spent much of the last 45 years trying to correct that. His six symphonies, more than 500 songs and musical pieces and numerous books and studies on Arab music are helping to popularise it from Los Angeles to Moscow.

Mahdi, who has taught in a number of Western universities and institutes, says the time is ripe for Arab music to make an impact in the West.

"The West has become more aware of our music after several music institutes there succeeded in breaking barriers that separate Eastern and Western cultures," he told Reuters after a lecture here recently.

Arab music, infused with Turkish influences, has already left its mark on two-thirds of the globe. Muslim warriors carried it to Spain, from where it spread to Spanish colonies in the new world.

Turkish armies carried it to the outskirts of Vienna in the middle ages. "If we listen now to the Sofia, Belgrade or Bucharest radios we will feel clearly the effects of Arab music," Mahdi said.

There are also similarities between Arab music and that from many parts of Africa and Asia, he added.

Mahdi's own efforts to internationalise Arab music include symphonies incorporating Arab themes and rhythms.

"I have tried to use a structure easily understood in the West to

get across our music," he said.

Al Mahdi's "Al-Daa'ima" (the continuous march), which Mahdi said portrays the Arabs' struggle for independence in four movements, was played at the Moscow music festival in 1985 by the Moscow radio orchestra.

It features Arab rhythms but is based on a scale — the Zangola — that like Western music does not use quarter tones.

His third symphony, *Wafaa* (fidelity), incorporates three musical instruments from the Arab orchestra — the oud (similar to the lute), the qanoun (similar to a zither) and the nai (Arab flute) — and does rely on quarter tones.

Another symphony, *biladi* (my country), deals with peoples of the Mediterranean and incorporates melodies from numerous countries in the region. It is to be presented at the Moscow music festival next year.

Mahdi, who composed Tunisia's national anthem, called on Arab governments to cooperate to implement a comprehensive plan through which singers, lecturers and musical troupes would tour Europe and other parts of the world to bring them Arab music.

"We should reduce the purchase of guns and weapons to direct our efforts to spread our culture, music and arts because these are the languages which bring people together."

He spoke bitterly about the present state of Arab music and the tendency of youth to follow Western pop styles. "The youth of today need to be vaccinated against non-authentic music and the cheap ideas they have."

He urged Arab governments to adopt a long-range plan to preserve and strengthen traditional music.

Teenagers learn art of diplomacy at mock U.N.

By Martin Nesirky
Reuters

THE HAGUE — A security guard barred a "Soviet" delegate from entering a committee room for crucial arms control debate because he was wearing jeans.

Outside in the corridors, the secretary-general shuffled between delegates in an attempt to defuse border tensions in Asia.

At the opening of the General Assembly, an official warned delegates against buying drugs.

None of the 1,300 delegates, guards, reporters and administrative staff was much older than 19.

They were taking part in The Hague international model United Nations last week, an annual educational role-playing game which draws teenagers from 120 schools, mostly international, around the world. The event is organised by teachers from three Hague International Schools, British, American and West German.

Delegates spend hours trying to boil down the resolutions on arms control, terrorism, human rights and many other subjects for debate at the assembly on the final day.

"It's a simulated exercise in which we try to imitate, recreate and play the role of the U.N. General Assembly with all its committees," said David Williams, an organiser of the event at the city's congress site and one of the few adults to be seen.

The scheme's director, history teacher Bill Hungerford, said

model United Nations were also held in the United States. But few, if any, are as big and international as The Hague's, now in its 19th year.

Students agree the exercise gives them an unrivalled insight into world affairs and provides valuable experience in debating and learning the subtle art of compromise.

John Laughbaum, the secretary-general this year, is one of many who consider studying international relations following the event.

Generally, the student delegates take roles as representatives of countries other than their own. Schools represent one or two nations and spend weeks studying their adopted country's policies.

One year, students travelled to New York to soak up the atmosphere at the real United Nations.

Another time a Guyanese diplomat in London became so engrossed she sent diplomatic messages to the pupils playing her country. Two South African diplomats took the exercise seriously enough to attend the whole five days to be on hand to give guidance on Pretoria's line in any given debate.

This year, a Dutch school represented West Germany and delegates were briefed by Bonn's ambassador to The Netherlands. Some pupils at The Hague's American School played Soviet delegates and visited the Soviet embassy for background information.

How Cat Stevens became a Muslim

By Talia Chakmakjian

LONDON (DPA) — "Assalamu alaikum" (peace upon you) are the first words the visitor hears upon entering the Islamic Primary School, one of Britain's first full-time Islamic schools.

The story behind the school starts with a journey that pop star Cat Stevens embarked on in 1977 when he converted to Islam and became known as Yusuf Islam.

"I had a faith in God but did not know how to express that faith," said 39-year-old Yusuf sitting behind a desk at the school in the northeast London district of Brent.

At the peak of a successful musical career, featuring hit songs such as "Wild World," "Morning Has Broken" and "Father and Son," the music of Cat Stevens spoke of peace, love, Eastern mysticism and Buddhism.

He was seeking his identity through various religions. But "none made sense" to him apart from the teachings of the Koran. "I was fascinated in the belief in one universal God of all, in the belief of all the prophets," says Yusuf.

The question of a school arose when he got married in 1979 to Fawziyah Ali in Regent's Park Mosque and they had their first child.

The concern he shared with other devout Muslim parents on his child's education within a Western society materialised at first into a nursery. It shortly expanded into a primary school for 85 boys and girls of 21 different nationalities. "We are a showcase of the microcosm of the

entire Islamic world," says Yusuf.

Pupils come from Egypt, Morocco and Saudi Arabia in the Arab World, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in Asia and some are English or American. The main language is English but the school aims to add Arabic as another first language. Arabic is now used for religious studies.

The school is financed privately by Yusuf's personal funds from royalties he still receives from his recordings. Wealthy families living in Britain or abroad also sent their donations.

Yusuf argues that Islam is eligible for a local authority grant but is deliberately being denied such funding. "Although 16 per cent of the borough are Muslims, there is a conspiracy to stop Muslims from having their own school," he says. A recent religious survey found that the number of Muslims in Britain went up by a third in the last five years, to 852,000, while the number of mosques rose to 314, compared to a mere four in 1960.

The children in Islamia school receive the complete education of normal British primary school with additional Islamic and Arabic studies.

Asked how the pupils would continue their education after leaving and the problems they may encounter fitting into Western society, Yusuf says: "We plan on expanding to a secondary school, Inshallah (God willing). 'Besides, if you give a child a good identity and a strong feeling of commitment, then even if he experiences difficult times, he

will overcome them easier," says Yusuf.

"The school's (and community's) sheikh, Mahmoud Abdul Patah Jalal, adds that he envisages the children becoming devout Muslim "Dua'is" who will spread and teach the word of the Koran.

Apart from the school, Yusuf also plays a prominent role in a Muslim Relief Agency, which works on relief and charity projects in Islamic countries as well as publishing books.

On a fund-raising mission for Afghan refugees, Yusuf visited Pakistan for one week in December, around the time of the seventh anniversary of the Soviet intervention in the neighbouring country. His Haj to Makah in 1980 reinforced his belief in Islam and allowed him to share his experience with Muslims from around the world, regardless of their nationality, Yusuf says.

"Most people in the West see Islam as nationalistic, threatening and warlike, whereas it is the exact opposite," he says.

Born in London with the name of Steven Demetri Georgiou, of a Swedish mother and a Greek-Cypriot father, Yusuf tells of the inevitable changes in his relationship with his family after he embraced Islam.

"Islam gives great importance to the family. Before converting I



Yusuf Islam in the office of the Islamic primary school in north-west London.

was a lonely person and did not socialise much.

"After an initial shock, my family appreciated the changes in me because I started paying more attention to my parents, brothers and sisters — something which I ignored before," he says.

But there was antagonism against him, especially from the media that treated him almost as if he no longer existed. "To their minds (journalists), Islam is like taking one step backward," he says.

As for music, Yusuf has said he was willing to make a comeback, not as a singer but as a composer. He is considering writing new songs for the benefit of refugees.

Wail of bagpipes muted across Arabian desert

By Rory Channing
Reuters

KUWAIT — The wail of the Scottish bagpipes across the deserts of Arabia has been muted by the fall in world oil prices.

"I must say business fell away last year," said Sir Patrick Grant, head of one of Scotland's top bagpipes manufacturers. "The previous year we were really busy."

Grant, managing-director of Grainger and Campbell, a firm with a 160-year history, is on a British mission visiting Gulf countries in a bid to boost trade.

Bagpipes are popular with military and police bands the length of the Gulf, a legacy of British influence prior to the oil boom of the 1970s.

There is even a pipe band on camel-back in Oman.

Special modifications are made in instruments sent to the Gulf, where in Kuwait for example summer temperatures soar to 50 degrees centigrade.

The bellows, or bag, is usually made of sheep or goat skin. "But

for a dry climate like the Gulf, we use elk hides from Canada," Grant said.

The pipes themselves are made of East African blackwood, traditionally imported from Tanzania. But bagpipes manufacturers must compete with clarinet makers for tight supplies.

Grant, a former professional piper, said he came across the appropriate trees by accident in Mashonaland, Zimbabwe, a few years ago by accident and was able to set up a small sawmill there to supply his company.

And despite modern technology, the bagpipes industry remains highly labour intensive.

"We've looked at computerised machinery," said Grant, but automation sometimes failed to detect flaws in the wood.

"The bagpipes have completely defied the 20th century. They have to be hand-finished," he said.

Grant said his firm produced 500 to 1,000 sets of bagpipes a year, selling from 400 to 3,000 sterling (\$600 to \$1,500) each.

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Murray wins 1st British gold in Euro track meet

LIEVIN, France (R) — Yvonne Murray raced away with Britain's first gold medal of the European Indoor Athletics Championships, scoring an emphatic victory in the women's 3,000 metres Sunday.

Earlier, Natalia Akhimenko gave the Soviet Union a golden start to the last day of the championships in the women's shot put and Serge Helan presented host nation France with its first title in the triple jump.

Murray seized control of the six-strong 3,000 metres field after the first 1,000 metres. She stretched her lead to win by a massive 40 metres from tall Dutch runner Elly Van Hulst, adding gold to the silver she won in the event last year.

The Scot clocked an excellent eight minutes 46.06 seconds to beat Van Hulst by over five seconds and West German world champion Heidi Krieger of East Germany, who had to settle for the silver medal as she did at last year's European Indoor Championships in Madrid.

Todd Bennett brought Britain another gold medal, getting the better of Dutchman Arjen Visserman in the men's 400 metres. Bennett, drawn two outside his Dutch rival, hit the front before the halfway mark, but Visserman passed him on the back straight on the last lap of the 200-metre circuit.

"I'm surprised I ran so well. I didn't expect it to go that way. I was surprised how much I won by," said Murray with a big smile after completing a lap of honour, draped in a Union Jack flag and waving a bouquet of flowers.

"I'm looking forward to Indianapolis because I like fast races," she added, turning her

thoughts to the World Indoor Championships in the U.S. next month.

Helen won the triple jump by three centimetres from Christo Markov, Bulgaria's European outdoor champion, who was clearly hampered by a leg injury and competed with his right thigh bandaged.

"I can't get over it. I'm on another planet," the Frenchman said after his second round 17.15 metres resisted Markov's 17.12 and 17.07 in the third and sixth series.

Akhimenko dominated the shot, subduing European outdoor champion Heidi Krieger of East Germany, who had to settle for the silver medal as she did at last year's European Indoor Championships in Madrid.

Todd Bennett brought Britain another gold medal, getting the better of Dutchman Arjen Visserman in the men's 400 metres. Bennett, drawn two outside his Dutch rival, hit the front before the halfway mark, but Visserman passed him on the back straight on the last lap of the 200-metre circuit.

The Briton showed his grit to squeeze through on the inside going into the top bend and held on to win the title for the second time in three years as Visserman faded to fourth in a blanket finish behind Momothil Harizanov of Bulgaria and another Briton, Paul Harnsworth.

Maria Pinigina became the third Soviet victor of the day following Akhimenko and three-kilometre walker Natalia Dmitrochenko, achieving a runaway win in the 400 metres.

Pinigina, bronze medalist in the 1983 World Championships, left the rest trailing in her wake and won in 51.27, more than a second up on West German Gisela Kinzel.

Josef Pribilinec, European 20-kilometres walk gold medalist, put Czechoslovakia on the winners' rostrum when he won a duel with East German Ron Weigel in the five-kilometre walk.

Weigel, world 50-kilometres walk champion, stayed at Pribilinec's shoulder virtually throughout but could not overhaul the Czechoslovak, who won by just half a second in 19:08.44, well outside the East German's world best 18:44.97.

The diminutive Dmitrochenko led all the way in the women's 3-kilometre walk and resisted a barnstorming finish by Italian world record-holder Giuliana Salce on the last lap.



MIX-UP: Jordan's national team defender, Isam Telly, attempts to clear the ball as Jordan's goalie, Milad Abbasi, dives to grab it. Jordan national team was playing Dynamo Bucharest of Romania in an international friendly match at Amman Stadium on Sunday. Dynamo Bucharest won 1-0 in a closely fought match. On Tuesday, Dynamo Bucharest will play Al Ramtha in Irbid before leaving for Syria (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Indian centuries greet President Zia at test

JAIPUR, India (R) — Mohammed Azharuddin, who completed a stylish 110, and Ravi Shastri, with a painstaking 125, left India comfortably placed in the third cricket test against Pakistan Sunday.

India was 459 for eight at the close of the second day, but its slow scoring and the docile nature of the pitch offers the prospect of draw — the outcome of the first two games in the five-test series.

Play was watched by Pakistani President Mohammad Zia Ul Haq, who arrived in India Saturday night and came here proclaiming: "Cricket for peace is my mission." He was introduced to the teams and saw the morning session.

A substantially larger crowd than on the first day could not inspire India to score its runs fast enough to put pressure on Pakistan through an early declaration.

The crowd became restive and repeatedly booed the batsmen as India, 228 for four overnight, made 59 in the first session, 98 in the second and 74 in the third.

Azharuddin, who resumed on 72, batted for 208 minutes, faced

211 balls and hit 14 fours in his second hundred in consecutive tests. He fell in the last over before lunch, trying to sweep off-spinner Tauseef Ahmed and being caught behind by Saleem Yousuf.

Shastri's seventh test hundred took him 424 minutes and 280 deliveries, with just four boundaries, but he opened out in earnest after reaching three figures.

All-rounder Shastri hit left-arm spinner Iqbal Qasim for a straight six but tried to repeat the stroke off the next delivery and was caught by Rameez Raja. His 125 occupied 450 minutes and 293 deliveries.

Shastri and Kapil Dev put on 98 for the sixth wicket in 108 minutes as India's captain injected a rare note of aggression by hitting exactly 50 from 85 deliveries.

The final session was extended by 20 minutes to try and complete the agreed minimum daily number of 82 overs, but Pakistan was two short of that figure at the close.

Today is the rest day, and the test will resume on Tuesday.

Hamburg gains clear lead after record break

BONN (R) — Hamburg broke clear to title rival and champion Bayern Munich after the longest winter break in West German First Division history.

Hamburg, ahead on goal difference at the start of the 77-day interval, went a point clear by beating Borussia Moenchengladbach 3-1 on a frozen home pitch Saturday.

Yugoslav Sascha Jusufi equalised for Hamburg just before halftime and Frank Schmoeller added two more goals in the 52nd and 55th minutes, the second a powerful 18-metre shot.

Borussia Dortmund salvaged a 2-2 draw against visitor Bayern, who went ahead when Roland Wohlfarth struck twice.

Norbert Dickel pulled a goal back in the 75th minute and Michael Zorc crashed the ball home seconds from time.

Championship contender Bayer Leverkusen and Stuttgart had their games postponed by bad weather.

Bayer Leverkusen remained third while Kaiserslautern went fourth after a 2-0 home victory over Blau-Weiss Berlin.

China survives scare in table tennis

NEW DELHI (R) — China's powerful women's team was given a fright by Yugoslavia before entering the semifinals while the Netherlands upset North Korea in the World Table Tennis Championships Sunday.

The Chinese team, defending the title it won two years ago at Gothenburg, recovered from a bad position in the fourth match to grind down a gallant Yugoslav

team of Gordana Perkucin and Jasna Fazlic 3-1.

In the other quarterfinal, the Netherlands unexpectedly beat Gothenburg runners-up North Korea 3-1 in a bitterly contested tie, Hungary brushed aside the Soviet Union 3-0 and an aggressive South Korean team beat Japan by the same score.

China will now meet Hungary while South Korea, who beat the Chinese in the Asian Games, faces the Dutch.

Experimenting with its side for the third time in the absence of top seed Geng Lijuan, China looked in danger of being taken

to a fifth match when Perkucin led Li Huifen 10-5 in the deciding game of the fourth.

But Perkucin fell apart when the players changed sides at 10-5 and eventually fell victim to a flurry of smashes by Li.

Perkucin earlier lost the first singles to the tournament's number two seed, Jiao Zhimin, and Li had overwhelmed Fazlic.

The Yugoslav women came back into the match in the doubles where they combined to down Jiao and Dai Lili in two games, only the second game the Chinese dropped in the championships.

Edberg, Becker to battle in California tennis final

INDIAN WELLS, California (R) — Top two seeds Stefan Edberg of Sweden and Boris Becker of West Germany will meet in the final of the \$435,000 Pilot Pen Classic tennis tourney after convincing semifinal wins.

Edberg, the number one seed, ousted Swedish Davis Cup teammate, Mats Wilander, seeded fourth, 6-1, 7-5, while Becker eliminated third-seeded Yannick Noah of France 6-4, 6-2 on Saturday.

Edberg has lost to Becker in their last six meetings, but the Swede has already won two finals this year — the Australian Open and the Memphis Indoor Championships — and the slow, hard surface here could work to his advantage.

"It's always hard to beat Boris but it's not impossible," Edberg said. "With this slow court I might get a few more returns back and put more pressure on him."

Edberg had little trouble with his compatriot in the first set,

winning in just 22 minutes. Wilander found his rhythm in the second set, surviving a break in the fifth game to break back to 4-4.

Wilander matched Edberg's net attack with brilliant passing shots. But the top seed broke him for a 6-5 lead and served out the match as Wilander's forehand pass fell long.

Becker, who was able to defuse Noah's big serve with punishing returns all day, broke the third seed in the very first game with a forehand pass.

"I read Noah's serve pretty well so I was returning really good," Becker said. "If you don't get a good return off his serve, you're in trouble."

The two-time Wimbledon champion broke Noah again at the start of the second set and he could never get back into the match. Becker closed out the set with his sixth ace.

"He was really impressive," Noah said. "I have to be quicker at the net to beat guys like him."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Wimbledon upsets Everton in FA Cup

LONDON (R) — Rugged striker John Fashanu battered Everton to its first English Football Association (FA) Cup defeat outside Wembley for four years Sunday and put Wimbledon into the quarter-finals for the first time. Fashanu left Everton captain Kevin Ratcliffe bruised and bloodied in a fiercely competitive match in which Wimbledon emerged as worthy 3-1 winners to end the Goodison club's dream of a fourth successive cup final appearance.

Graf, Sukova to meet in final

BOCA RATON, Florida (R) — Second-seeded Steffi Graf took full advantage of a mid-match downpour to beat American Pam Shriver 6-4, 6-3 and reach the final of the \$250,000 Florida women's tennis tournament. Graf will play fourth-seeded Helena Sukova of Czechoslovakia, a 4-6, 6-3, 6-1 winner over Argentina's Gabriela Sabatini, in the final.

Youngest player leads chess tourney

REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — England's chess grandmaster Nigel Short seized the lead Saturday night in the powerful chess tournament in Reykjavik. After three rounds, Short was the only one of the 12 players in the all-grandmasters competition to have won all his three games. Short, born in 1963, is the youngest player in the tournament. "He is a prodigy and I think he must be the favourite to win," said Fridrik Olafsson, Iceland's first grandmaster. Short trounced Viktor Korchnoi, the former Soviet grandmaster who now plays for Switzerland, in the second round. On Saturday, Short defeated Icelandic grandmaster Jon L. Arnason after a tough third round game. In the first round, Short beat Yugoslav grandmaster Ljubomir Ljubojevic, who was the only player without a point after the first three of the 11 rounds.

McEnroe has expensive tooth ache

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (R) — John McEnroe will miss the \$1.8 million International Players' Challenge starting today after having four wisdom teeth extracted last week. Pat Cash, the only other player in the world top 13 to miss the two-week event, has had arthroscopic surgery and will remain in Australia to prepare for his country's Davis Cup world group first round tie against Yugoslavia next month. Jimmy Connors accepted a wild card berth Saturday after testing out a suspect knee which had forced him to withdraw midway through the Memphis Grand Prix final last week. Defending champion Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia will play a qualifier in his first match.

Filipino boxer stops S.Korean champion

SEOUL (R) — Doddie Penalosa of the Philippines won the International Boxing Federation (IBF) flyweight title when he stopped defending champion Shin Hee-Sop of South Korea in the fifth of their scheduled 15 rounds in Incheon, west of Seoul, Sunday.

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Argentine deadline on acceptance of human rights cases takes effect

At least 100 military officers to be tried

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine courts have ordered trials for at least 100 military officers accused of human rights abuses, narrowly beating a midnight deadline to end new trials for such offences committed under military rule.

The officers are charged with murder, torture and other crimes during the eight-year military regime that ended in 1983.

Courts around the country have also ordered trials for about 50 police officers and civilians for rights abuses, local news agencies reported Sunday.

Among the military officers to be tried is former President Leopoldo Galtieri, who launched Argentina's ill-fated invasion of the disputed Falkland Islands in 1982.

The federal appeals court in Paraná, 530 kilometres north of Buenos Aires, ordered trial for Gen. Galtieri and at least five other officers for their alleged role in atrocities committed while Gen. Galtieri was commander of the Second Army Corps in the late 1970s.

Gen. Galtieri was acquitted in 1985 by a Buenos Aires appeals court on charges of rights viola-

tions dating from his seven-month presidency.

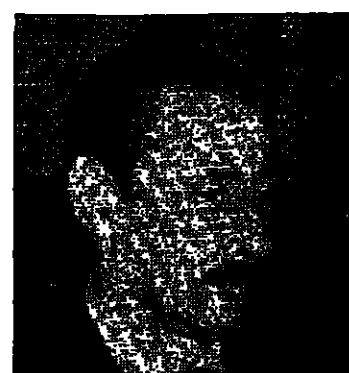
President Raul Alfonsín proposed the deadline on prosecutions — known as the "full stop" law — in December as a way of lifting the "unending suspicion" hanging over the armed forces since they handed power to civilians.

More than 9,000 people disappeared at the hands of security forces during the military's campaign against dissidents, according to an inquiry board set up by Mr. Alfonsín soon after he became president.

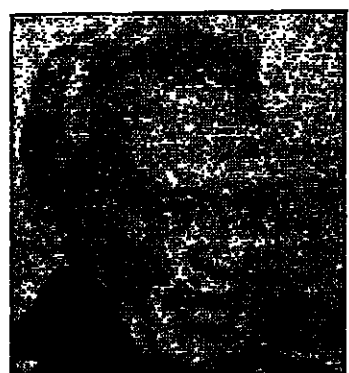
Argentina's president during the height of the military repression, retired General Jorge Videla, has also been called to trial, the local news agency Noticias Argentina reported.

A court in La Plata, outside Buenos Aires, ordered that he be tried for his alleged role in rights abuses in Buenos Aires province.

The same court has ordered



Jorge Videla



Leopoldo Galtieri

trial for 50 other military officers, some of them on active duty.

Gen. Videla is now serving a life prison term for his role in rights violations during his five-year presidency, which began with a military coup that overthrew President Maria Martinez de Peron in 1976.

Sources cited by Noticias Argentina said the Buenos Aires federal appeals court had ordered trial for at least 17 top naval officers for atrocities at a naval installation that became a notorious detention centre during the military rule.

Former inmates at the deten-

tion centre, which operated in the navy mechanics school, have brought more than 400 charges of rights abuses there and human rights groups say it was one of the military's key torture centres.

The "full stop" law has met strident opposition from human rights groups and leftist political parties, which staged a protest march by 10,000 people in Buenos Aires last Friday night.

Protesters say that despite the flurry of new trials, the "full stop" law will leave hundreds and perhaps thousands of guilty military officers free from prosecution.

Aubron is married to Regis

French police capture Action Directe chiefs

PARIS (R) — French police have arrested the leaders of the underground guerrilla movement Action Directe, the state Radio France Inter reported.

It said Nathalie Menigon and Jean-Marc Rouillon, France's two most wanted guerrillas, were captured Saturday night at an isolated farm near Orleans.

The report said two other Action Directe suspects, Joelle Aubron and Georges Cipriani, were also held and police found arms and explosives and documents linking the group with the killing in Paris of Renault chief executive Georges Besse.

The Interior Ministry and Orleans police could not confirm the report.

Menigon and Rouillon founded Action Directe in 1981. The French authorities say they believe the underground group's leaders are closely linked with the remnants of West Germany's Red Army Faction.

Menigon and Aubron are the chief suspects in the killing of Besse, shot by two women outside his Paris apartment on Nov. 17.

Action Directe announced in January 1985 that it was merging with the Red Army Faction. It has since claimed responsibility for five attacks on prominent French people.

Aubron is married to Regis

Schleicher, another leader of the extreme left group, whose trial for the murder of two policemen last December was abandoned when jury members dropped out after receiving threats.

Schleicher is due to be tried again by a special Assize court of seven judges — and no jury.

Reports of the arrests came just a day before the opening of the Paris trial of Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, a suspected Lebanese guerrilla, on charges of complicity in the killing of an Israeli and an American diplomat in 1982.

Apart from Besse, the guerrilla group's most prominent victim was General Rene Audran, the Defence Ministry's arms procurement chief, shot in 1985.

The group unsuccessfully tried to assassinate Guy Brama, deputy chief of the French employers' Organisation CNPF, in April 1985.

Officials said the raid was carried out based on information gathered by police intelligence. The farm was watched for some time, and at the beginning, only Rouillon and Menigon were seen. It was only Saturday night Ms. Aubron and Cipriani joined their comrades, police said.

Photographs of Ms. Aubron and Menigon were posted all over France on Nov. 19 by police who wanted them in connection with the Besse killing.

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Sinatra makes a comeback

LOS ANGELES (R) — A slim, rested Frank Sinatra was greeted by a cheering celebrity-studded audience as he sang in public for the first time since a section of his intestines was removed last November. "I ain't heard those chops (voice) that good in years," fellow entertainer and close friend Sammy Davis Jr. told the audience after Sinatra had sung three songs, backed by a 30-piece orchestra, at a Los Angeles hotel. Looking younger than his 71 years, Sinatra together with Davis, Dean Martin — all former members of the so-called Hollywood ratpack — and Rosemary Clooney sang at a charity concert that raised \$660,000 to buy cowboy works of art. The works will go to the \$25-million Gene Autry Western Heritage Museum, due to open in Los Angeles in June 1988. Sinatra underwent his operation on Nov. 9 after being forced to abandon a singing engagement in the New Jersey gambling resort of Atlantic City because he was in pain. He had a second operation last month.

Doctor removes large cyst from girl

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — A cyst weighing more than 19 kilograms has been removed from the stomach of a 14-year-old girl, the Nepalese National News Agency reported. The growth, removed at Bheri Hospital in Nepalgunj, about 550 kilometres south west of Katmandu, was the largest ever removed through surgery in Nepal, said K.N. Joshi, the surgeon who performed the operation. The girl, Indu Bantam, suffered from a stomach ache for about a year before the operation, the report said.

Tunnels built to save toads

LONDON (AP) — Tunnels are being built under a main road west of London to give thousands of toads a safe passage during their annual journey to ponds where they mate. The Fauna and Flora Preservation Society said Sunday it is working with a concrete manufacturer to build the tunnels near Henley-On-Thames in a pioneering, £1,000 (\$1,500) plan to stop the slaughter of toads by traffic. If the toads use the tunnels, the idea will be copied at other sites in Britain, according to a statement from the society, based at London Zoo. The society already coordinates the national "help a toad across the road" campaign, which erects warning signs at nearly 200 sites across the country where toads migrate to breeding grounds.

Homosexuals stage annual parade

SYDNEY (R) — Thousands of people from Sydney's homosexual community paraded in flamboyant style through the city centre. Men and women in outrageous headgear and revealing costumes of sequins and tassels, took part in the annual Gay Mardi Gras, which started here 10 years ago. Floats, including a five-metre figure of former Philippines first lady Imelda Marcos, a two-metre model of a condom, Chinese dragons and a huge kangaroo, were moved through the streets. Revelers brought traffic to a halt as police on horseback kept a close watch. Police said there were no disturbances during the five-hour display.

Man rams truck into bar

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A man thrown out of a tavern Saturday night after a fight with his girlfriend rammed his 10,870-kilogramme truck into the bar, killing one person and injuring 18 others, four critically, police said. The driver, Kenneth W. Metzler, 33, was arrested and held on a preliminary charge of murder, Sheriff's Deputy Steve Thomas said. The truck tractor crashed through the front of the Benchmark Pub and Eatery about 7:30 p.m. (0030 GMT Sunday), Thomas said. "The guy drove the thing all the way through the place — from the front to the back wall," Thomas said. Metzler apparently had been thrown out after a fight with his girlfriend, a waitress at the tavern. He then got into his truck and rammed the bar, which had about 20 people inside, Thomas said. "It sounded like a bomb," said Steven Henry, who was near the tavern. Thomas identified the dead woman as Marlene Vittorio, 55, of Indianapolis. Indiana. The injured were taken to four hospitals, where four were in critical condition and two were listed as serious. People shopping in the area rushed to the scene of the crash, and several threatened to harm the driver, who was trapped inside the cab for a time, deputies said. "Police had to keep them off the guy," Sheriff Joseph G. McAttee said. "They were ready to lynch him."

Thatcher aide to quit over women priests

LONDON (R) — A member of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government said he would quit the Church of England if it allowed women to be ordained as priests. Agriculture Minister John Selwyn Gummer is a lay member of the church's ruling body, the General Synod, which will consider the issue next week. Gummer said in an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC): "I love the Church of England and I love the way it can include people like myself, a high churchman, and evangelical people, working together. But if you change the church you push people like me out of it," he said. Gummer said many hundreds of priests and thousands of lay people would feel compelled to leave the church if women priests were accepted. Gummer's voice joined those of a growing number of clergy led by the Bishop of London, Graham Leonard, who have warned of a split if the proposal is accepted. "I am not searching yet for a new home because I think we are going to win the battle," Gummer said. Next week's synod session will not decide whether to allow the ordination of women, but will consider a report by bishops, which looked at how the church could adapt to women priests. It will also be asked to approve the preparation of legislation to allow women to be ordained as priests, ready for a final decision by a future synod.

Antibiotics linked to human illness

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists at the Federal Centres for Disease Control (CDC) have found new evidence linking antibiotics in animal feed to illness in humans, the New York Times reported Sunday. A draft of the federal study says findings showed conclusively that Salmonella bacteria was spread to humans because of the use of antibiotics, the newspaper said. The findings of the study will be published in the New England Journal of Medicine on March 5, the newspaper said. Antibiotics are included in feed for most livestock in the United States to promote growth and protect animals from disease. But in recent years scientists have said strains of Salmonella flourish in the animals as other organisms are killed. The Salmonella can cause severe intestinal ailments in people who eat contaminated meat, and treatment is difficult because antibiotics normally used are ineffective. "These studies show that food animals are a major source of antimicrobial-resistant Salmonella infections in humans," the draft report said. The CDC report carefully traced Salmonella from farms to sick people, the Times said, ruling out the possibility of contamination during processing or transporting. The study also concluded that cooking does not kill all the Salmonella organisms. "The problem is complex and no one solution is apparent," the study said. "Efforts must be taken to minimise the contamination of meat and other food items by resistant Salmonella." The antibiotics are used to help livestock make more efficient use of their food and to protect them from the rapid spread of disease in the close quarters of modern animal raising.

Soviets move ahead on Euromissiles

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union has rebuffed a U.S. proposal to ban all nuclear ballistic missiles but is making headway in arms control talks with the United States toward an agreement to rid Europe of intermediate-range warheads, a senior government official says.

"We're working hard to work out a detailed format of a treaty, but we haven't presented it yet," the official said over the weekend in an appraisal of the current round of Geneva talks.

The treaty would require the two superpowers to withdraw all intermediate-range nuclear warheads from Europe. The Soviets could retain 100 warheads in Asia, while the United States would store a matching 100 warheads at home.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said negotiators also were trying to

move forward on longer-range nuclear weapons. The goal is to reduce by 50 per cent U.S. and Soviet arsenals of globe-circling bombers, submarines and intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The official said the Soviets are willing to negotiate on a U.S. proposal for ceilings on various types of strategic weapons, the official said. Last November, when the two sides met in Vienna, "they wouldn't even talk about it," he said.

The idea behind the U.S. proposal for sub-ceilings is to force the Soviets to make sharp reductions in their heavy land-based missiles, the heart of their nuclear armory.

The two sides are stalled, however, on the proposal President Ronald Reagan made last October to Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev for the elimination of all ballistic missiles in

the second half of a 10-year pact. "We've got it on the table, but it isn't actively being negotiated because their position is so far away from ours," the official said.

The official also said the Soviets were pushing their own proposal to eliminate all strategic nuclear weapons over 10 years.

That would mean scrapping long-range bombers, submarines and cruise missiles, but not the medium and short-range ballistic missiles Reagan would outlaw.

On defensive systems, meanwhile, Soviet negotiators insisted that the U.S. "Star Wars" programme be confined to laboratory research, the official said. "They still haven't moved away from that," he said.

Asked if he expected a breakthrough before the round of talks ends on March 4, the official said, "I can't anticipate that."

Festivities mark ouster of Marcos

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The nation's leading churchmen Sunday urged the people of the Philippines to renew their spirit of the unity and sacrifice as they begin a four-day celebration of the anniversary of the ouster of former President Ferdinand Marcos.

Celebrations commemorating the "people power" revolution which propelled President Corason Aquino to power end Wednesday, the first anniversary of Marcos' departure to exile in Hawaii.

The Philippine army and police have been placed on full alert in case Communist rebels or Marcos loyalists try to disrupt the festivities.

Festivities on Sunday included wreath-laying, a display of military equipment at Camp Aguinaldo where the mutiny against Marcos began and an evening motorcade.

Roman Catholic Cardinal Jaime Sin urged Filipinos to re-assert the spirit of unity and sacrifice which sent tens of thousands into the streets last year to protect soldiers who broke with Marcos on Feb. 22, 1986.

Sin said the same spirit is needed if the nation is to make fundamental social and economic changes.

"We must, for instance, be able to set aside corruption, irresponsibility and wastefulness of incompetence," the cardinal said in a pastoral message published on Sunday.

"We must be willing to make the sacrifices which will allow deep and lasting change to take place, like the land reform the nation so desperately needs."

Sin's radio appeals last year sent thousands into the streets to protect military mutineers who broke with Marcos and declared their allegiance to Mrs. Aquino.

Chinese paper warns against left-right battles

PEKING (R) — China's official People's Daily Sunday warned the country against left-right factionalism in the current drive to counter Western political ideas.

It called for a balance between Communist principles and China's reform policy but accused some reformers of trying to steer the country towards capitalism.

Some party members had over-emphasised the reforms so that "bourgeois liberal ideas flooded their thinking," the newspaper said.

But criticism of such people should be reasonable and should not harm China's reforms and open policy, it added.

"We absolutely must not attack leftism with rightism nor attack rightism with leftism," the front-page commentary said.

China's official drive to combat

"bourgeois liberalisation" is continuing, involving intensified political study and self-examination for party members, the armed forces and college students.

Some liberal-minded intellectuals have been demoted or expelled from the Communist Party for alleged "bourgeois liberal" mistakes since the drive began.

But Chinese leaders have said the stricter ideological atmosphere will not become a mass campaign and will not affect economic policy.

The People's Daily said that reform policies themselves did not contradict Communist principles but had been misunderstood by some.

Neither the reforms nor "four basic principles" of Chinese Communism should be neglected, it said.

Pakistani minister visits Moscow for Afghan talks

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan left Sunday for Moscow for talks that he said would focus on a timetable for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan.

He is due to meet his Soviet counterpart, Eduard Shevardnadze, Monday for the second time this month, ahead of a new round of United Nations-sponsored Afghan peace talks in Geneva this week.

Mr. Yaqub Khan told reporters before his departure that he and Mr. Shevardnadze would explore "avenues for finding a settlement of the Afghanistan problem," the Pakistan APP news agency reported.

"The talks will primarily focus on the question of a time-frame for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan," he added.

The indirect talks between the Pakistani and Afghan foreign

ministers, with U.S. special envoy Diego Cordovez acting as intermediary, are due to resume on Wednesday.

The talks, begun in 1982, have already agreed on three points of a proposed settlement, covering international guarantees about non-interference in Afghan affairs and the return of Afghan refugees.

But the two sides remain far apart on the question of a timetable for pulling out the Soviet troops, who arrived in December, 1979, to help a fledgling Marxist government.

Mr. Yaqub Khan's visit continues a flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at ending the Afghan conflict.

Other recent visitors to Moscow have included Mr. Cordovez, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Afghan Prime Minister Sultan Ali Kishwand and Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil.

U.S. Democratic hopefuls begin week of decisions

WASHINGTON (AP) — The crowd on the road to the 1988 Democratic U.S. presidential nomination thinned out the past week, with New York Gov. Mario Cuomo getting off the campaign bus for good and Senator Sam Nunn stepping aside for now.

Mr. Cuomo stunned the party on Thursday with a simple declaration in New York City that he would "not add my name to that number," of presidential contenders.

Sen. Nunn edged away from the field at a party dinner Friday in Atlanta, saying, "I am not tossing my hat in the ring nor am I forming an exploratory committee."

But the Georgia Democrat, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said he has not "completely closed the door" to entering the race.

With the decisions by Mr. Cuomo and Sen. Nunn, the opposition Democratic field began to settle down, with still a year to go before the first caucuses in Michigan and Iowa, and the first primary in New Hampshire. It left six serious hopefuls and two possible candidates.

Even as the field narrows, the Democratic campaign opens formally on Monday, when Repre-

sentative Richard Gephardt is expected to announce his candidacy.

At least two more Democrats are expected to announce their candidacies next month: Former Arizona Gov. Bruce Babbitt on March 10 in New Hampshire, and Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis sometime during March.

Mr. Babbitt has already set up his official campaign committee.

Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware will take another step toward his official declaration by about March 1, when he will set up an exploratory committee to finance what is known as testing the waters.

Former Colorado Senator Gary Hart, the Democratic leader in early polls, is campaigning virtually full time. Mr. Hart is to announce on April 13 that he is again seeking the nomination that he came so close to winning in 1984. He has had an exploratory committee operating since late last year.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, whose eloquence electrified crowds during his 1984 bid for the nomination, will be making another lap around the track in 1988. A date has not been set for his announcement, but it is expected to follow Sen. Hart's in the spring.

Contras claim killing 277 Sandinistas

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP) — The largest contra rebel group has claimed it killed 277 Sandinista soldiers in 67 battles during the first 15 days of February.

The Nicaraguan Democratic Forces, or FDN, also said 355 Sandinista soldiers were wounded during the period.

The FDN said its troops captured 44,500 rounds of ammunition for the Soviet-made AK-47 rifle, 53 mortars, five rocket propelled grenade launchers and 34 AK-47 rifles. It also said its forces on Wednesday attacked a Sandinista military outpost in Matagalpa province and captured two soldiers.

As is customary, the FDN gave no accounting of its casualties.

By FDN count, there have been 729 Sandinista troops killed since the first of the year and another 1,026 wounded in 172 engagements.

Last year, the FDN said it killed 2,247 Sandinistas and wounded another 3,159 in 866 battles.

There was no way to independently verify the figures since the Sandinistas do not release casualty figures of their own troops and recently have barred journalists from going to the war zones.

Gorbachev lauds Soviet 'internationalism'

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev praised relations between different nationalities in the Soviet Union but indicated there had been policy errors in the past, the Communist Party newspaper Pravda said Sunday.

Mr. Gorbachev was addressing government and party members and economic managers in Estonia Saturday before he returned to Moscow after a five-day tour of the Baltic states, which were independent between the two world wars.

The flourishing of nations and nationalities has been ensured by Leninist nationality policy. Of course there were shortcomings

and mistakes in that great course, as well as aggravations (of the situation) and we are aware of them and do not overlook or forget them," he said.

"But all this does not change the main result of the party's efforts to bring Soviet nations and nationalities together,"

Mr. Gorbachev told a party plenum on Jan. 27, that extreme nationalist tendencies in some parts of the Soviet Union must be wiped out and called for an "internationalism" education drive aimed particularly at young people.

His latest remarks followed two days of nationalist-inspired riots in Alma-Ata, capital of Kazakhstan, following the re-

placement as Kazakh party leader of Dinmukhamed Kunayev, a Kazakh, by Gennady Kolbin, an ethnic Russian.

The Baltic States of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were annexed by the Soviet Union in August 1939 under a secret accord with Nazi Germany.

Mr. Gorbachev, who has launched a campaign to revitalise the Soviet economy and society, said the unification of nationalities helped to solve economic and political problems.

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